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Then i would

'Should', 'would' and 'could' are auxiliary verbs that can sometimes get confusing. They are the past tense of 'shall', 'will' and 'can' but are also used in other situations.'Should' can be used:To express something that is probable Examples: "John should be here by 2:00 PM." "He should be bringing Jennifer with him. To ask questions Examples: "Should we turn left at this street?" "Shouldn't you be getting ready for work?"To show obligation, give recommendation or even an opinion Examples: "You should stop eating fast food." "You should go for walks more often." "We should go to the park tomorrow." "He should go to the pharmacy first thing in the morning." Want to have the amazing feeling of traveling the world from your desk? Learn English with teachers and students from all over the world in our online virtual real live classes. Make the first step today!'Would' can be used:To ask 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when', 'why' or 'how' (not always, but often) Examples: "How would you do that?" "What would you do if..." "When would we have time to do that?" "Who would want to wait in that line?" To make a polite request Examples: "Would you like any tea?" "Would you like anything else?" In hypothetical situations Examples: "If I had a lot of money I would like to own a farm one day." "I would love to buy a boat one day."To ask questions Examples: "Would you like fries or salad?" "Would you like to join us tonight?""Could' can be used:To suggest a possibility Examples: "Whose journal is this? It could be Nelly's journal." "Could 'A' be the answer? It's definitely not 'B' or 'D.'" To make a polite request Examples: "Could you please move this box?" "Could you please pass that paper?" Using the word 'could' to respond to the requests we made in the last example would suggest that you could do it, but you might not really want to. If you agree to the request, then you use the word 'can'. Examples: "Could you please move this box?" "I could, but I am really busy right now." "Could you please pass that paper." "Sure, I can.'There you go, a few ways to use 'should', 'would' and 'could'. Yes, that's right, just a few ways! There are more, but we can discuss those another time, or you could try to look up the other uses and try them out yourself or with the support of the online English course EF English Live. Join us for free!Similar article: Accept or except? The top 10 confusing English words you need to know In this quick English lesson about the past conditional tense, I talk about the differences between "Would have been", "Could have been", and "Should have been." These are terms that can seem confusing to new English learners but can learn to use them properly in your English conversations and your writings. The past conditional "could have been," "should have been," and "would have been" structures often get skipped over in class. They seem quite complicated, but they don't have to be! In this lesson, I'm going to quickly explain in what situations to use them and how they're different from regular past tense verbs. I hope this helps to solve your doubts about this part of English grammar. How to use the Phrase 'Could Have Been' in English First of all, let's take a moment to talk about pronunciation. Could + have is often shortened into "coulda" when speaking but not in writing. For example: "I coulda been a contender" is a famous line from On the Waterfront, a classic 1954 movie. Now, let's talk about grammar. "Could" is conditional. "Have + been" marks the past tense. As you may know, conditional grammar expresses an idea that is not real. It didn't happen. However, we believe if certain conditions were met, then things could have been different. For example: "If I had worked harder, I could have been more successful." Or "I could have been more successful if I had worked harder. How to use the Phrase 'Should Have Been' in English First of all, let's take a moment to talk about pronunciation. Should + have is often shortened into "shoulda" when speaking but not in writing. "I should have been paying more attention to my English teacher but I was daydreaming too much." This shows that you knew you were supposed to pay closer attention, but just weren't focused enough on that task. You know we use "should" to express an opinion. It is like "must" but weaker. Yet, it is stronger than "could." Use "should have been" to express what you think should have happened, but did not happen. Often, you'll hear this phrase used in arguments or regrets about the past. For example: "You should not have lied to me!" "You should have been more careful!"   How to use the Phrase 'Would Have Been' in English First of all, let's take a moment to talk about pronunciation. Would + have is often shortened into "woulda" when speaking but not in writing. For example, you might say something like, "I would have been there for your birthday party but I was sick in bed with the flu." This shows that you intended to be there but something came up that prevented you from going. Things would have been different if another situation or condition had been met. In the above example, if I had not been sick. You can also use "would have been better" to give advice. For example: "It would have been better if you had practiced a bit more before your presentation." What About "Must?" Of course, as English is a language with many possibilities, there are more verbs that can result in different meanings. You may have heard someone say a sentence using the words, "must have been." This is not a past conditional structure, but rather it is in the present perfect. "Must have been" is used to express an assumption, or an opinion that you gathered from a logical guess. In this case, we are not talking about something that is not true. In fact, we are talking about what we believe to be true (in the past)! To learn more about must vs. have, you might like to watch this English lesson. If you're curious about using the present perfect, and how to answer the common question "How have you been?" – click here for my lesson on how to answer this question like a native.. We often receive questions from English learners all over the world! While we cannot always answer every single one in detail, we really appreciate hearing from you and some of your inquiries make for great lesson ideas. In this video, Gabby will explain about could have been, would have been, should have been in English grammar. This was an excellent question from one of our online learners! SHOULD HAVE BEEN We use should have been in order to state our opinion. Examples: "I feel it should have been me going to Europe for that business trip, not Frank" "The leader should have been Mary" "There should have been a buttercream frosting on that cake, it would have been perfect" WOULD HAVE BEEN We use would have been is used to explain the logic of events. Examples: "The party would have been a disaster if Mary didn't show up, she had everyone laughing" "I would have been there but I had to pick up my daughter from school early today" "Frank would have been here earlier, but he got held up in traffic" COULD HAVE BEEN We use could have been in order to discuss potential possibilities. Examples: "It could have been a lovely evening, but I had a really bad headache" "I could have been Queen, had I been born into the royal family" "Who ate all the cookies? It could have been Mary, she is a bit of a cookie monster" Watch the video now to hear Gabby explain about could have been, would have been, should have been in English grammar'! Are you looking for a way to improve your English? Would you like to know when you're making a mistake? Get information on our complete English course, Fluent Communication, and learn when we will open it again for new students. Click here for information. From VOA Learning English, this is Everyday Grammar. Today we will take a look at the modal verbs could have, would have and should have. These past tense modals are useful for expressing your present feelings about a past decision (or other action). Could have, would have, and should have are sometimes called "modals of lost opportunities." They work like a grammatical time machine. The simple past just tells what happened. Past modals tell what could have, would have, and should have happened. To form these past modals, use could, would, or should followed by have, followed by a past participle verb. Use have for all pronouns; never use has or had to form a past modal. Here are some examples: She could have gone to any college she wanted to. I would have gone to the party, but I was tired. He should have told the truth about what he saw. Each of these modals has a slightly different meaning. We'll look at each of them using examples from movies and popular songs. Could have We'll start with could have. Could have means that something was possible in the past, but it did not happen. I could have gone directly to college, but I decided to travel for a year. Listen to this song by 1980s teen pop star Tiffany. The singer is thinking about past possibilities with her lost love. Could have been so beautiful Could have been so right Could have been my lover Every day of my life Native speakers often do not pronounce their past tense modals as clearly as Tiffany. Could have been usually gets contracted to could've been or even coulda' been. Listen to Marlon Brando in the classic film "On the Waterfront." Brando's character, Terry Malloy, was once a promising young boxer. "You don't understand. I coulda' had class. I coulda' been a contender. I could have been somebody—instead of a bum." To form the negative with these modals, use not between could and have. Could not have means that something was impossible in the past. For example: She could not have been on that flight because I just saw her at work. Defense lawyers often use could not have to argue for a client's innocence. A popular compliment in English is, "I couldn't have said it better myself." You can say this when you like the way somebody said something. It is a way to show strong agreement. Would have Let's move on to would have. Would have is a bit more difficult because it has two common structures. The first is with but. I would have A, but I had to B. Use this structure to show that you wanted to do something in the past, but you could not. I would have called, but there was no phone service. I would have loaned you the money, but I didn't have any. Would have also forms the result clause of a past unreal conditional. For example: If I had known they were vegetarians, I would have made a salad. You can always reverse conditional sentences. If would have comes first, there is no comma. I would have made a salad if I had known they were vegetarians. Past unreal conditionals are very complex; you can learn more about them on a previous episode of Everyday Grammar. Usually, would have suggests a bad feeling about the past. But not always. In this song by the band Chicago, the singer is surprisingly happy that his ex-girlfriend cheated on him. Her infidelity gave him the opportunity to meet someone else. And that someone else turned out to be his true love. If she would have been faithful If she could have been true Then I wouldn'ta been cheated I would never know real love I would've missed out on you Should have Finally, let's look at should have. Should have means that something did not happen, but we wish it had happened. We use should have to talk about past mistakes. A worried mother might say: "I was so worried about you. You should have called!" Should have is common in apologies. For example: I'm sorry that I'm late for work. I should have woken up earlier. You might remember Lieutenant Dan in the movie Forrest Gump. In the movie, Dan loses both of his legs in the Vietnam War. He would have died, but Forrest saved him. Listen for should have as Dan confronts Forrest. "You listen to me. We all have a destiny. Nothing just happens. It's all part of a plan. I should have died out there with my men. But now I'm nothing but a cripple!" Should have can be used in a light-hearted way. In this song, country singer Toby Keith imagines how exciting his life would be if he had chosen to be a cowboy. I should've been a cowboy I should've learned to rope and ride Wearing my six-shooter Riding my pony on a cattle drive I couldn't have said it better myself. As you can see, these modals of lost opportunities offer a colorful way to talk about past choices. That's all for this week. Join us next week for more Everyday Grammar. I'm John Russell. And I'm Dr. Jill Robbins. Now it's your turn. Leave us example sentence. What is something you could have / should have / would have done in the past? Adam Brock wrote this article for VOA Learning English. Hai Do was the editor.   Words in This Story modal verb – n. a verb (such as can, could, shall, should, ought to, will, or would) that is usually used with another verb to express ideas such as possibility, necessity, and permission contender – n. a person who tries to win something in a game or competition bum – n. a person who is lazy or who does something badly compliment – n. a comment that says something good about someone or something vegetarian – n. a person who does not eat meat infidelity – n. the act or fact of having a romantic or sexual relationship with someone other than your husband, wife, or partner confront – v. to oppose someone, especially in a direct and forceful way cripple – n. a person who cannot move or walk normally because of a permanent injury or other physical problem six-shooter – n. a kind of gun (called a revolver) that can hold six bullets (often used to describe guns used in the old American West) cattle drive – n. the process of moving cows from one place to another The contraction I'd can mean either 'I would' or 'I had'. If you're unable to understand the meaning of I'd (or he'd, she'd, we'd, etc.) from the context of a sentence, try looking at the verb form that follows it: would is followed by the bare infinitive (infinitive without to) would can also be followed by the perfect infinitive (have + past participle) had is followed by a past participle. Watch out for sentences containing 'd better! Here's the explanation in the form of an infographic: For more examples sentences and a full explanation of the rule see: grammar explanation of 'd = 'had' or 'would'. If you want to test yourself, try this exercise: practice exercise 'd = 'had' or 'would'.