**8B Modals in the past**

• We use *ought to have* or *should have* + past participle to say what the right thing to do was.

He failed his exams. He ought to have done more revision.

‘I’m really tired.' 'Well, You shouldn't have gone to bed so late.'

• We use *might have* or *could have* + past participle to complain that somebody didn’t do the right thing.

You might have let me know that you weren't coming.

The negative form of this meaning is *shouldn’t have*.

You shouldn't have forgotten mum's birthday [=correct]

~~You mightn’t have forgotten mum’s birthday~~ [= incorrect]

• We use *needn’t have* + past participle to talk about something which happened but wasn’t necessary.

It only took half an hour to get to the airport. We needn't have left so early.

• We use *didn’t need to* + past participle to talk about something which didn’t happen because it wasn’t necessary.

'Did you go to the bank?' 'No, I didn't need to. I had plenty of money on me.'

**1** **Complete the sentences with a modal in the past and the verb in brackets. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Explain your choice of modal verb.**

1 I needn't have bought this loaf of bread. (buy)

- because it wasn't necessary

2 You . . . . . me that you weren’t coming. I wouldn’t have prepared all this food. (teil)

3 I . . . . . the door. it was already locked. (lock)

4 Look at all the litter those people left. They . . . . . it home with them. (take)

5 You . . . . . me such a big birthday present! (buy)

6 John was passing my house on his way to work. He . . . . . me a lift. (give)

7 He . . . . . the car to the garage. He fixed the problem himself. (take)

8 ‘Where’ve you been? I was really worried about you!’ ‘You . . . . . worried. (be) I was at Angela’s.’