Perfect Modal Verbs Exercise

We use perfect modal verbs to speculate about the past. Check through the different uses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I would have gone to that party</td>
<td>a decision made too late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I should/ought to have asked her for her email</td>
<td>advice coming too late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>You might have enjoyed the concert</td>
<td>opinion, possibility but too late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>We needn't have done it today.</td>
<td>an unnecessary past action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look at the following phrases and write in which type you think they are. Then use one of the modal verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

TYPE
1 □ If I had gone to the sales, I'm sure I ..................................................... something. (to buy)
2 □ Clare was very upset you didn't go to her birthday party. You ..................................................... (to go)
3 □ No one's answering the phone. They ..................................................... out. (to go)
4 □ The lights are out. They ..................................................... to sleep. (to go)
5 □ We ..................................................... Dave to the party if we had known he was in town. (to invite)
6 □ You ..................................................... at Samantha. She'll never forgive you. (to shout NEGATIVE)
7 □ I ..................................................... to have done some acting when I was younger. (to love)
8 □ You ..................................................... to wash up. I would have put everything in the dishwasher. (to bother)
9 □ You ..................................................... to the pub on Saturday. We had a great time. (to come)
10 □ She ..................................................... her mind. I'm not sure. (to change)
11 □ You ..................................................... so much money on CDs. You'll have problems getting to the end of the month now. (to spend NEGATIVE)
12 □ She told me she ..................................................... you if you had given her your address. (to email)
13 □ She’s really shy. You ..................................................... her you liked her. (to tell)
14 □ She ..................................................... yes to a date. You never know. (to say)
15 □ You ..................................................... her weight. She was very upset. (to mention NEGATIVE)
16 □ We ..................................................... so much food. We can't eat it all. (to order)
Answers

1 1 If I had gone to the sales, I'm sure I would have bought something.
2 2 Clare was very upset you didn't go to her birthday party. You should/ought to have gone.
3 3 No one's answering the phone. They might have gone out.
4 3 The lights are out. They might have gone to sleep.
5 1 We would have invited Dave to the party if we had known he was in town.
6 2 You shouldn't/oughtn't to have shouted at Samantha. She'll never forgive you.
7 1 I would have loved to have done some acting when I was younger.
8 4 You needn't have bothered to wash up. I would have put everything in the dishwasher.
9 2 You should/ought to have come to the pub on Saturday. We had a great time.
10 3 She might have changed her mind. I'm not sure.
11 2 You shouldn't/oughtn't to have spent so much money on CDs. You'll have problems getting to the end of the month now.
12 1 She would have emailed you if you had given her your address.
13 2 She's really shy. You should have told her you liked her.
14 3 She might have said yes to a date. You never know.
15 2 You shouldn't have mentioned her weight. She was very upset.
16 2 We needn't have ordered so much food. We can't eat it all.