

Grammar – 10: Modal verbs of deduction (*past*)

A. Match the correct answer to the blanks below.

can't have gone

may have misunderstood

must have seen

could have seen

might have handed

1. I don't know why there weren't any buses yesterday. They _____ on strike but I'm not really sure.
2. You _____ her. She was standing right next to you.
3. We'll ask at reception. Someone _____ your keys in.
4. He _____ to Russia. He hasn't got a passport.
5. I explained it but she _____ my Japanese isn't very good.

B. Fill in the missing places using modal verbs of deduction (*must have, can't have, could have or might have*).

1. John _____ gone on holiday. I saw him this morning downtown.
2. Nobody answered the phone at the clinic. It _____ closed early.
3. Sarah looks really pleased with herself. She _____ passed her driving test this morning.
4. I didn't know you were going to Phil's party yesterday. You _____ told me!
5. I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He _____ caught the wrong train.
6. I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He _____ caught the correct train.
7. Don't lie to me that you were ill yesterday. You _____ been ill - David said you were at the ice hockey match last night.
8. I don't know where they went on holiday but they bought Euros before they left so they _____ gone to France or Germany.
9. His number was busy all night - he _____ been on the phone continuously for hours.
10. It _____ been Mickey I saw at the party. He didn't recognise me at all.