PAST MODALS OF DEDUCTION

To make guesses/speculate about the past we use:

MODAL VERB + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (-ED/3rd verb form)

example:

I saw Simon in a police car last night. The police MUST HAVE ARRESTED him → **I'm sure it happened**

The teacher CAN'T HAVE MARKED our homework, she hasn't got our notebooks with her → **it's impossible/I'm sure it didn't happen**

There MIGHT HAVE BEED/COULD HAVE BEED an accident in the town centre. There was a big traffic jam → **it's possible/perhaps it happened**

TASK 1. Rewrite the underlined phrases using past modals of deduction:

1. I'm sure Kim hasn't finished the essay yet

Kim _____ the essay yet.

2. I'm sure it rained during the night because the grass is really wet.

It _____ during the night because the grass is really wet.

3. It's possible that my little sister borrowed my necklace.

My little sister _____ my necklace.

4. Lyn looks upset. Perhaps she and Frank have split up.

Lyn looks upset. She and Frank _____.

5. I know Dave hasn't voted yet because the polling station doesn't open until 8.30.

Dave _____yet because the polling station doesn't open until 8.30.

6. I'm positive you've heard Helen's joke about the dog*.

You _____ Helen's joke about the dog.

*dog joke:

How would you call a dog with no legs?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It doesn’t matter, it won’t come anyway.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS