

Past Modals

1. Choose the most suitable words.

1. That can't have been / shouldn't have been Nick that you saw.
2. You had to give / might have given me a hand!
3. I caught a later train because I had to see / must have seen a client.
4. I suppose Bill should have lost / might have lost his way.
5. I didn't refuse the cake, as it must have been / would have been rude.
6. I don't know who rang, but it could have been / must have been Jim.
7. It's a pity you didn't ask because I could help / could have helped you.
8. It's your own fault, you can't have / shouldn't have gone to bed so late.

2. Complete the sentences with ONE word.

1. I _____ have become a millionaire, but I decided not to.
2. You _____ have been here when Helen told the boss not to be so lazy.
3. Peter wasn't here then, so he _____ have broken your vase.
4. If you felt lonely, you _____ have given me a ring.
5. I saw the lights on. They _____ have been at home!
6. Is Sarah the killer? She had the opportunity, she had a motive... she _____ have done it!
7. She _____ have fixed the computer, it's still not working properly.
8. You _____ have been so rude to Jane, look, she's crying now.

3. Rewrite the sentences with a past modal (use the word given in capitals) so that the meaning stays close to the original.

1. It wasn't very nice for you not to invite me to your party. MIGHT

_____.

2. I don't believe you have lost your keys again! CAN'T

_____.

3. Don't worry about Carol. Maybe she missed the train. MIGHT

_____.

4. Thank you very much for buying me flowers! SHOULDN'T

_____.

5. Can you see all the puddles? I'm sure it rained. MUST

_____.

6. Why didn't you support me? That was so unlike you! SHOULD

_____.

7. Why hasn't John come yet? Are you sure he got the e-mail? MAY

_____.

8. Sorry, I didn't tell you about the appointment, I forgot. OUGHT TO

_____.