Modals of Deduction in the Past

We use them to guess or deduce what happened in the past, based on evidence.

Structure:
Subject + modal + have + past participle



- **MUST HAVE** + past participle (**certainty**: Used when we are almost sure (very certain) something happened in the past, based on strong evidence
  Example: She **must have studied** a lot.



- **MIGHT / MAY / COULD HAVE** + past participle (**possibility**: Used when we think something is possible, but we are not sure.
  Example: He **might have forgotten** the meeting.



- **CAN'T HAVE** + past participle **(impossibility**: Used when we are sure something did NOT happen in the past.
  Example: She **can't have been** at home.

Important Notes:
- Use past participles
- These are guesses, not facts
- Based on evidence

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

1. The door is open. They _____ (must / can't / might) have left already.

2. He looks tired. He _____ have slept well. (must / can't / might)

3. I'm not sure, but she _____ have taken your book. (must / might / can't)

4. The baby is crying. She _____ have woken up. (must / can't / might)

5. He _____ have finished the test. He left early. (must / can't / might)

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

1. She didn't answer the phone. She _____ (be) busy.

2. The lights are off. They _____ (go) to sleep.

3. He got a bad grade. He _____ (study) enough.

4. The keys are not here. I _____ (leave) them at home.

5. She is smiling. She _____ (hear) good news.

Exercise 3: Correct the mistakes

1. She must has gone home. → _____

2. He might have ate dinner. → _____

3. They can't have went there. → _____

4. She must have saw him. → _____

5. He might has forgotten. → _____

Exercise 4: Write a sentence based on the clue

1. The glass is broken. → _____

2. She is not answering messages. → _____

3. The fridge is empty. → _____

4. He looks very happy. → _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS