

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

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- **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

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. → _____