

### PAST MODAL VERBS OF DEDUCTION

**Task 1.** Fill in each gap using **must have**, **can't have**, **could have**, **may have** or **might have**.

*Example:* Someone was ringing. I'm sure it was my brother – he promised to call.

⇒ Someone was ringing. It \_\_\_\_\_ **must have** \_\_\_\_\_ been my brother – he promised to call.

1. I am sure he was here. I saw his car in front of the building.

He \_\_\_\_\_ been here.

2. A: Where is James? He should already be here, shouldn't he?

B: Yes, he should but I don't know why he isn't here - he \_\_\_\_\_ missed the bus.

3. I'm not sure if I passed the exam. I don't feel very sure that I passed.

I \_\_\_\_\_ passed the exam.

4. A: Last summer I took four exams and failed them all!

B: You \_\_\_\_\_ been very disappointed.

5. She speaks excellent French. I'm sure she's lived in Paris for a long time.

She \_\_\_\_\_ lived in Paris for a long time.

6. A: Their plane was delayed and they had to wait 36 hours in the airport.

B: They \_\_\_\_\_ been very happy with the airline.

7. Someone told me that Mark was in Mexico last week, but I saw him here so he \_\_\_\_\_ been in Mexico.

8. A: I saw John yesterday - he looked very pleased with himself. He didn't say why but I think he got that job he applied for.

B: He \_\_\_\_\_ got that job he applied for.

9. They gave me very little time to do the job. It's possible I'd have finished if I'd worked all night, but I'm not sure.

They gave me very little time to do the job. I \_\_\_\_\_ finished if I'd worked all night, but I'm not sure.

10. We agreed to meet yesterday, but when I got there I didn't see him. It's possible he was waiting elsewhere.

We agreed to meet yesterday but when I got there I didn't see him. He \_\_\_\_\_ waiting elsewhere.

**Task 2.** Now complete the blanks with **must**, **should**, **shouldn't**, or **couldn't**:

1. I'm so thankful for your help with this project. I \_\_\_\_\_ have done it without you!

2. The repairs I made \_\_\_\_\_ have fixed the problem, but they didn't - so I'll have to take another look.

3. It \_\_\_\_\_ have rained a lot last night - there are puddles everywhere.

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ have watched that horror movie; it gave me nightmares.

5. We \_\_\_\_\_ have known about this; nobody told us anything about it.

6. If you've been trying to lose weight, then you really \_\_\_\_\_ have eaten all that ice cream.

7. He \_\_\_\_\_ have finished a 500-page book in a single day!

8. She never showed up. She \_\_\_\_\_ have forgotten about our appointment.

9. He broke two of the plates while washing the dishes. He \_\_\_\_\_ have been more careful.

10. They ate every bite of their dinner - they \_\_\_\_\_ have enjoyed the food.

**Task 3.** Choose the suitable forms of **Past modal verbs of deduction** and following verbs.

1. I left my bicycle in front of the library and it's disappeared. Someone ..... (steal) it.

2. Clara was very upset with you yesterday. You ..... (apologise) for saying she was lazy.

3. Sarah ..... (be) so happy when she found out she was being promoted.
4. Andrew did no revision for the exam but he's passed. I think he .....  
(cheat).
5. You ..... (shout) at him. He'll never forgive you.
6. He ..... (know) it was your birthday. Otherwise, I'm sure he would have wished you a happy day.
7. I had to wait 45 minutes for a bus yesterday. There ..... (be) an accident or maybe a strike.
8. He ..... (buy) a new car. He doesn't have any money.
9. The boss is in a terrible mood. The meeting ..... (be) bad.
10. He ..... (arrive) by now. It's only a 20-minute journey.
11. You ..... (try) to fix the roof yourself. You might have fallen off and been badly injured.
12. The concert was fantastic. You really ..... (come).
13. John has forgotten about the meeting. We ..... (remind) him about it yesterday.
14. I'm sorry but Samantha isn't here. She ..... (already leave) the office.
15. She ..... (study) really hard. She passed all her exams with excellent grades.

**Task 4.** For each sentence, choose between **can't**, **might** or **must** to fill each space.

1. Your mother \_\_\_\_\_ be a great cook. You are always so keen to get back home to eat!
2. I don't know why I am so tired these days. I \_\_\_\_\_ be working too hard. Or maybe I am not sleeping too well.
3. Do you know where Carl is? He \_\_\_\_\_ be out - his car keys are on the table.
4. You seem to know everything about the theatre. You \_\_\_\_\_ go every week.

5. To give the promotion to Harold was silly. He \_\_\_\_\_ know much about this company after only a year working here.
6. Go and look in the kitchen for your gloves. They \_\_\_\_\_ be in there.
7. Oh, the phone is ringing. Answer it. It \_\_\_\_\_ be Kate. She always rings at this time.
8. Dan has been drinking that whiskey since early this afternoon. He \_\_\_\_\_ be totally drunk by now.
9. That couple \_\_\_\_\_ think much of this film. They're leaving already - after only 20 minutes!
10. That's the second new car they have bought this year. They \_\_\_\_\_ be very rich!