

PERFECT MODALS 1 (MODAL + HAVE + V3/ed)

Notes: What is a “perfect modal”?

- Perfect modals are not actually “perfect,” but they are called that because they use a modal verb (in this case, could, should, might/may, must) followed by a perfect tense construction (“have” + past participle).
- Perfect modals are **used to talk about past actions**.

Must have + past participle

Express a deduction about something that has happened. We feel quite sure about it.



I didn't hear her voice. She **must have gone out**.

Can't have + past participle

Express a deduction about something that didn't happen in the past based on present evidence.

She **can't have passed** such a difficult exam.



Should have + past participle

Express the idea that something was desirable or needed but didn't take place.

She **should have asked** you before borrowing your pen.



Shouldn't have + past participle

Something took place but it wasn't desirable.

She **shouldn't have taken** the matter too seriously.



Complete the sentences below with “ must/can't/should/shouldn't have”:

1. I'm sorry but Mr. Banks isn't here. He _____ left.
2. We really enjoyed the movie. You _____ come with us.
3. They _____ bought a new house. They are both unemployed.
4. He studied nothing and passed the exam, so he _____ cheated.
5. You _____ broken up with her; she was perfect for you.
6. Alex _____ studied very hard, because she got top marks in all the exams.
7. I _____ revised more for the exam. I was lazy, and now I'll fail!
8. Sarah looked very happy. She _____ passed her driving test.
9. I didn't know you were going to Phil's party yesterday. You _____ told me!
10. You _____ paid more attention. Now we are lost.