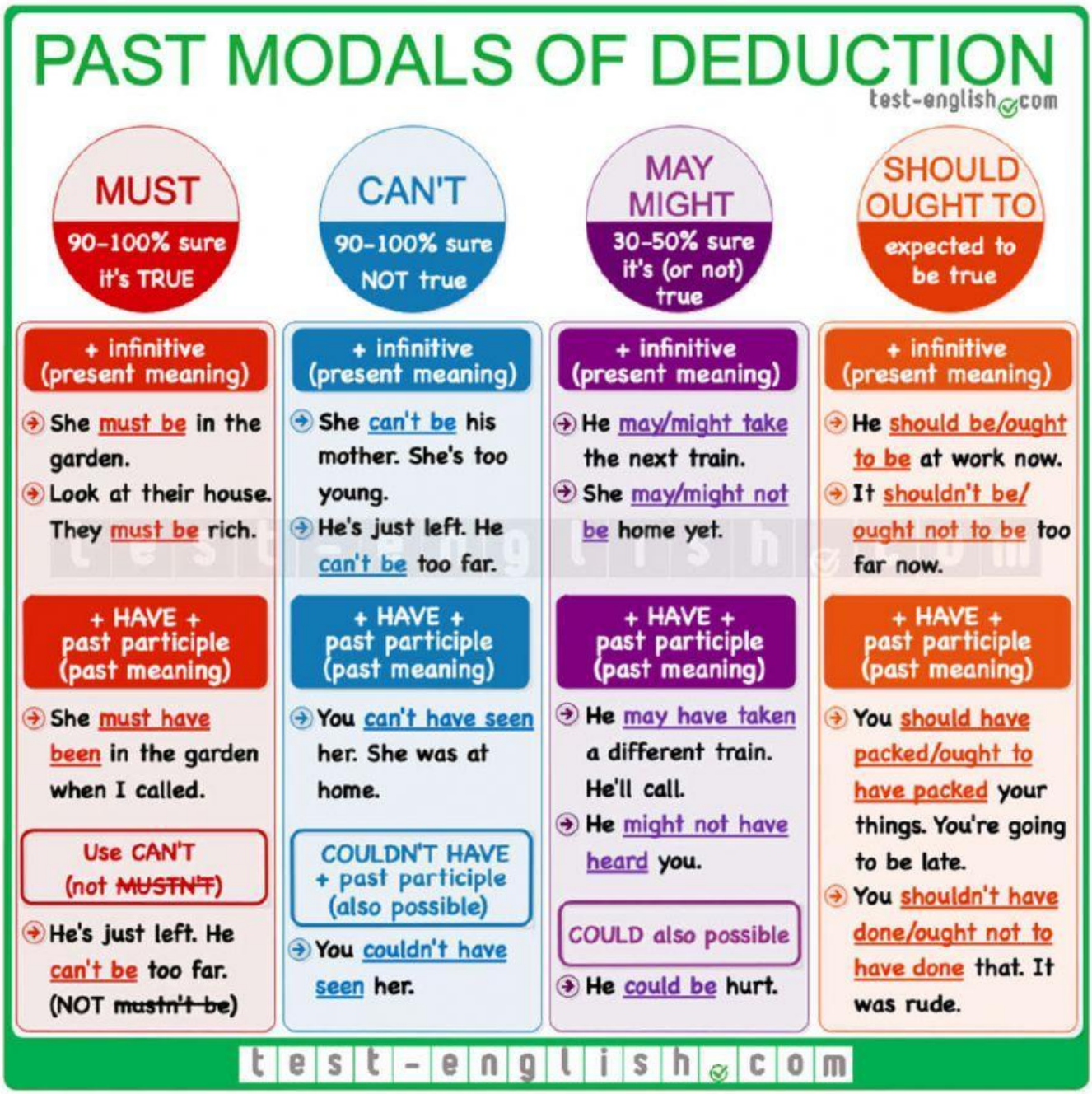
PERFECT MODALS 2 (MODAL + HAVE + V3/ed)

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**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets with a past modal verb form.

Old Mr McGraw had been murdered and everybody was wondering who 1 _____ (do) it. Two police officers were speculating about the murder.

SEBASTIAN: It 2 _____ (be) Mrs McGraw. I'm totally convinced it was her. She absolutely hated him. She 3 _____ (use) a kitchen knife as the murder weapon, or maybe an axe from the garden tools.

JESSICA: It 4 _____ (be) Mrs McGraw. She isn't strong enough to drag the body and put it in the car boot. It 5 _____ (be) their older son; I would bet all my money it was him. He had motive, because Mr McGraw had disinherited him long ago, and everybody knew they hated each other.

SEBASTIAN: Impossible. It 6 _____ (be) their older son because he has a plausible alibi. He was fishing with his brother at the time of the crime, he testified.

JESSICA: Then the younger son 7 _____ (lie) to protect his brother. They 8 _____ (agree) on an alibi after the murder. If you think about it, they 9 _____ (plan) the murder together. It's a reasonable possibility. Maybe the younger son was afraid that his father would disinherit him too; they had a difficult relationship.

SEBASTIAN: That makes sense. They killed him so that at least one of them could get the inheritance.

JESSICA: Well, if they wanted to get the money from the inheritance, they 10 _____ (kill) their father. Because now we'll catch them and they will be in prison and without a penny.



⇨ We can use **might/may/could have + past participle** to talk about something that perhaps happened or was true.
⇨ We can use **must have + past participle** to say that we are quite sure that something **was true or happened in the past**.
⇨ We can use **can't/couldn't have + past participle** to say that we are **quite sure that something did NOT happen or was NOT true in the past**.
⇨ We can use **should/ought to have + past participle** to talk about a situation that we expected to happen in the past, but it didn't. Or something we expected not to happen and it happened.⇨ We often use this form to express criticism.

LIVEWORKSHEETS