

Past modals for degrees of certainty

1. I'm not a fan of their logo. I think they _____ changed it years ago.

could have

must have

would have

should have

2. I can't believe you met Steve Jobs in person. That _____ been amazing!

should have

couldn't have

must have

might have

3. Do you think we _____ avoided the economic crisis if we had taken greater precaution?

should have

could have

might not have

must have

4. Our new hire is exactly what we needed. We _____ asked for a better employee.

couldn't have

may have

wouldn't have

shouldn't have

5. John _____ been at the party last night. He's not even in the country. He flew to Japan yesterday morning.

couldn't have

might not have

may not have

shouldn't have

6. The investigators have several ideas about what _____ caused the fire.

should have

would have

might have

wouldn't have

7. I'm not completely convinced of his innocence. I think he _____ been involved.

must have

might have

should have

must not have

8. You _____ mentioned it in front of the rest of the team. I would have talked to him in private about it.

shouldn't have

would have

should have

could have

9. Kurt _____ slept much last night. He looks awful and is on his third cappuccino.

must not have

could have

must have

wouldn't have

10. They said they were going to pick us up at 7 p.m. I think they _____ taken a wrong turn somewhere.

must not have

may have

should have

would have

11. Did I do the right thing? Is it what you _____ done?

must have

should have

could have

would have

12. We _____ changed distributors if they had kept their prices competitive.

wouldn't have

couldn't have

might have

shouldn't have

13. He didn't even crack a smile at my jokes. He _____ thought they were funny.

shouldn't have

must not have

wouldn't have

should have

14. Our security system shows that he swiped in with his badge at 8:14 AM, so he _____ been in the office yesterday.

should have

might have

must have

could have

15. Matt _____ graduated college in 1997. He was only 14 years old.

may not have

must not have

might not have

couldn't have

16. Tim's supposed to be here, but it looks like he _____ forgotten.

may have

couldn't have

would have

shouldn't have

17. Teresa's English is flawless. She _____ had a lot of exposure to the language.

should have

could have

may have

must have

18. He looked completely dejected after the interview. It _____ gone very well.

shouldn't have

should have

must not have

wouldn't have

19. You _____ told me you needed help. I would have pitched in.

must not have

should have

shouldn't have

may have

20. The virus _____ done us a lot of harm. Fortunately, it didn't.

couldn't have

may have

should have

could have