

Modals in Past



Modal + have + participle

Modal	Concept	Example
Would have	Past unreal action	If I had guessed the future, I would have taken some precautions against what would happen.
Could have	Past unreal ability	He could have taken the flight.
May have	Past unreal possibility	We may have passed the math exam, but it was in Spanish.
Might have	Past unreal small probability	You might have sold the car., if you really needed the Money.
Should have	Past unreal recommendation	You should have listened to the teacher.
Must have	Past unreal assumption	We must have been crazy!



I Choose the correct option

1 Nobody knows exactly why he died, but we think it **might have /should have /can have** been an accident.

2 I **might have/ should have/ could have** revised more for the exam. I was lazy, and now I'll fail.

3 Sarah looked very happy. She **can't have / should have / must have** passed her driving test.

4 I didn't know you were going to Phil's party yesterday. You **should have /must have /can have** told me.

5 I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He **should have / must have /can have** taken the wrong train.

6 You **may have / mustn't have / couldn't have** been ill yesterday. Jessie saw you at the bowling alley.

7 I don't know where they went but they **must have / can have / could have** gone to Paris or Marseille.

8 I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He **mustn't have / shouldn't have / can't have** taken the correct train.

9 You **can't have / must have / should have** paid more attention. Now we are lost.

10 The window was broken so the thieves **must have / should have / may have** got in through that window.

II Rewrite the following sentences using the Past Modals

1 My only regret is that I didn't follow her advice.

(should) _____.

2 It was my mother's birthday yesterday and I forgot to send her a card.

(should) _____.

3 I can't find my keys. Perhaps I dropped them in the Street.

(might) _____.

4 Jenny hasn't turned up. I'm certain she hasn't forgotten our appointment.

(must) _____.

5 I suggested we stopped at a bar for a drink.

(could) _____.

6 I sent the letter last week so I'm sure John has received it.

(must) _____.

7 I don't recognize this Street... Maybe we took a wrong turning.

(may) _____.

8 I wish I hadn't eaten all those shellfish.

(should) _____.