

# Modals in Past

**Modal** + **have** + **participle**



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

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## 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) \_\_\_\_\_.