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APPLY Complete the sentences with a past modal of deduction + the past participle of the verb in parentheses. More than one modal may be possible for some items.

- Police found the criminal's car at the station. He the area by train. (leave)
- Philip left his job at the computer security company. He that type of work. (enjoy)
- The investigators weren't sure what caused the computer problem. They think it an employee error. (be)
- You me on the video. I didn't leave home yesterday. (see)
- Liza didn't report her wallet missing for several hours. She (notice) it was missing.
- Alex missed the company meeting about Internet security. He about it. (know)



PRONUNCIATION SKILL

Reduced form of *have* in past modals

When speaking, we often contract *have to* 've or a (known as the schwa sound). This helps to make our speech sound more natural in English.

must've / musta might've / mighta could've / coulda
 must not've / must notta might not've / might notta
 couldn't have / couldn'a

Note that in the negative reductions the *t* is also reduced or silent.

9 **IDENTIFY** Listen to the sentences. Cross out the past modal and write the reduction you hear.

- They might have been on vacation when the robbery happened.
- He couldn't have known where I was unless he had followed me.
- Tom must not have gotten the company memo about the new policy.
- She must have been really upset when she saw your comment online.
- You could have called the police when you learned your account had been hacked.
- If I had known about the privacy issue, I might not have sent that email.

couldn't

notta

must've

could

not've

might've