Past Modals

Name: _____

Use past modals to express thoughts about actions in the past.

Use	Examples
Draw logical conclusions	Ben didn't buy the tickets for the concert. The tickets **must have been** really expensive because he really wanted to go. = I am almost sure the tickets were really expensive.
Express possibility	My sister didn't go swimming yesterday. She **may / might / could have felt** sick.= It is possible that she felt sick.
Express impossibility or disbelief	Someone said Annie was speeding yesterday. In my opinion, she **couldn't have been** driving too fast. She drives so carefully all the time.
Regret	I **should have studied** Psychology (but unfortunately I didn't.) Camila **shouldn't have bought** that car (but she did it.) It was too expensive.

A. Choose the correct alternative:

1. We shouldn't / mustn't have parked our car here. Now we don't know where it is.
2. My sister might not/ mustn't have liked her vacations. The hotel was so crowded and the food was too spicy.
3. He must/ could have learned Portuguese when he was a child. He speaks it so fluently.
4. Considering that Daniel had never cheated on an exam before. He shouldn't/ may not have been expelled.
5. I am so happy you did very well on the exam. You must / should have studied a lot.

B. Rewrite the following sentences keeping the same meaning:

1. It's possible that the teacher saw me. =The teacher _____
2. It wasn't a good idea for you to tell her that story. =You _____
3. I think it was not a good idea to buy that car.= You _____
4. It's possible that I left my English book at home because it is not here.
   = I _____
5. Maybe she didn't mean what she said about you. = She _____
6. I'm almost sure that your classmate took your jacket by mistake.
   = He _____

C. Complete each sentence with the appropriate modal and the verb in parentheses.

1. We hadn't planned we were going to have 5 children. We _____ (buy) a bigger house.
2. I _____ (study) Medicine. I _____ (be) really good at it.
3. Jack lost his wallet on the way to work. He _____ (lose) it on the bus.
4. I have no idea why she married him. He _____ (be) the only man available.
5. Camila has won every game she's played today. She _____ (practice) a lot.
6. You _____ (feed) your dog. He has been hungry all day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS