

Modals in the past

I can use past modals correctly.

1 Circle the correct modals to complete the sentences.

- She can't have / might have / must have left her phone at school. Or perhaps she left it on the bus.
- There's no pizza left. They can't have / could have / must have eaten it all.
- Juliet can't have / may have / must have gone on holiday. She was at school yesterday!
- I didn't get your email. Do you think you can't have / could have / must have sent it to my old email address?
- Your smartwatch probably isn't broken. It can't have / could have / must have run out of charge.
- The school show is on YouTube. Our teacher can't have / might have / must have uploaded it.
- You went 130 km in less than an hour? You can't have / could have / must have driven very fast!
- Max isn't replying to my texts. He can't have / might have / must have taken his phone with him.

2 Complete the sentences with **must have** or **can't have** and the verb in brackets.

- Jack is usually here by now. He (miss) his bus.
- Madison didn't know about the party. She (get) your email.
- Sam (take) his phone with him; he isn't answering my text messages.
- There's no bread. We (eat) it all at breakfast.
- They've left school already. Their lessons (finish) early today.
- He (injure) his leg really badly. He cycled home!

3 Write the correct reply (a–f) after sentences 1–6. Use **should** / **shouldn't have** and the past participle form of the verb in brackets.

- 'My camcorder screen is damaged.'

- 'I think we're driving in the wrong direction.'

- 'I've spent a fortune on my phone this month!'

- 'My email account has been hacked again.'

- 'Mason is really angry with me.'

- 'My tablet is completely dead.'

a We (bring) the satnav.

b You (choose) a better password.

c You (charge) it overnight.

d You (drop) it on the pavement.

e You (make) those comments on Twitter.

f You (call) your friend when you were abroad.

4 Complete the dialogue with the modals below. You can use the same modal more than once.

can't have may / might / could have
might not have must have

Erica What's the matter, Jack? You look worried.

Jack I can't find my phone. I left it somewhere.

Erica Did you have it on the bus?

Jack Yes, I did. But I left it there because I used it just after I got off. I sent you a text.

Erica You dropped it when you were walking here from the bus stop.

Jack Yes, that's possible. I was listening to my MP3 player.

Erica Somebody found it by now and handed it in to the police.

Jack Or they handed it in. They kept it.

Erica Shall I phone the police station and ask?

Jack Yes, OK. But why don't you call my phone number first?

Erica OK, I will. I can hear your phone ringing.

Jack Me too. I dropped it in the street.

Erica No. You put it down somewhere in the house.

Jack That's a relief! But where is it?

5 Write replies for the sentences. Use the words in brackets.

- 'My back is really painful.' (might have)

- 'Ellie has got a really expensive new phone.' (must have)

- 'I failed my science exam.' (can't have)

- 'I've deleted all my photos by mistake.' (should have)

- 'Anna left a rude message on my Facebook page.' (might not have)

- 'I haven't got enough money for my bus ticket.' (shouldn't have)

- 'It took Ben two hours to get home from school.' (must have)

- 'I was hungry all morning at school.' (can't have)

- 'Molly seemed really disappointed with her exam result.' (might have)