

Modals in Past

Structure:
Modal + HAVE + past participle

Modal	Concept	Example
Would have	Past unreal action	If I had guessed the future, I would have taken some precautions.
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!

1. Listen to the audio and complete the answers given by the people interviewed:



A mysterious suitcase was left in a hotel room with a hundred thousand dollars. No one knows the man staying at the hotel and no one knows what happened. We interviewed a few people to ask them for their own theories of what they think it happened:

- Emer: "He _____ left it there to collect later."
- Andy: "He _____ been kidnapped by somebody."
- Dan: "The businessman _____ kept the money in his suitcase to pay a client but perhaps he left the hotel in a great rush and forgot to take it with him."
- Stacey: "He _____ left the money there for someone on purpose, or he _____ been called away for an emergency and completely forgot about the money."

2. Match the sentences with the correct form of a modal in past

The school show is on YouTube

She might have left her phone at school

I didn't get your email

My tablet is completely dead

If we knew our bus was going to be late

Do you think you could have sent it to my old email?

I should have charged it overnight.

I would have booked a flight.

Our teacher must have uploaded it.

Or perhaps she left it on the bus.