

GRAMMAR

Modals of deduction: past



1 Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

- 1 You were very lucky. You *might* / *must* have been seriously hurt!
- 2 Nobody is answering the door. They *couldn't* / *must* have gone out.
- 3 The burglar *couldn't* / *might* have known we were on holiday, because we didn't tell anybody.
- 4 I'm not sure, but I think I *may* / *must* have forgotten to lock the front door.
- 5 You *couldn't* / *must* have heard the news! Everybody's talking about it.
- 6 Marie *might* / *can't* have forgotten about the extra practice, because I reminded her about it.
- 7 I don't know who phoned, but it *must* / *could* have been Harry.
- 8 It *couldn't* / *must* have been very cold last night because there's ice on the roads this morning.



2 Complete the conversations with a modal verb + *have* + the past participle of the verbs in brackets. Sometimes more than one modal verb is possible.

- 1 **A:** Thanks for all your help. I _____ (fix) the broken door without you.
B: No problem. I think the burglar _____ (be) very strong.
- 2 **A:** It's possible that the police _____ (find) the criminal by now.
B: No, they _____ (find) them yet. They don't work that fast!
- 3 **A:** Do you think Hunter _____ (get) stuck in traffic? He's very late.
B: No, he _____ (get) stuck in traffic – the streets aren't busy at this time.
A: Then you _____ (forget) to invite him. There's no other explanation!
- 4 **A:** I'm not sure, but I think I _____ (upset) Sophie when I told her how surprised I was that she got 100% in the test.
B: She _____ (get) 100%. That was a really hard test. She _____ (be) lying to you.
- 5 **A:** Have you seen Gary recently? He's got some great news!
B: Well, I thought I saw him at the gym yesterday evening, but it _____ (be) him, he was quite far away.
A: No, you _____ (see) him yesterday evening, because he was with me, telling me his news.