

What example can we use to describe each definition?

1. **Break into:** The thief broke into the house last night.
someone who has committed a crime
2. **Break out:** There was a prison break where several inmates broke out.
to pay what is due
3. **Offender:** The police arrested the offender who stole the car.
to escape from a prison
4. **Totaled:** The accident was so severe that the car was totaled.
to damage so badly that the cost of repairs exceeds the market value
5. **Deal:** The suspect tried to make a deal with the police to reduce his sentence.
to draw or pull along behind
6. **Pay up:** The shop owner demanded that the thief pay up for the stolen goods.
perception of the nature of an event after it has happened
7. **Glove compartment:** The stolen car's glove compartment was found empty.
to force entry
8. **Hindsight:** In hindsight, the security camera could have prevented the crime.
to reach or try to reach a state of acceptance or reconciliation
9. **Tow:** The illegally parked car was towed away by the authorities.
a small storage cabinet in an automobile

To speculate about past events, we use different modals.

● Habits: **would**

● Possibilities: **could**

● Something that was/wasn't the right option: **should**

● Speculation: **may / might have**

● Personal opinion: **would have**

● Something it was/want's possible: **could/couldn't have**

● Something it really happen: **must have**

- a The insurance company wouldn't pay up.
- b I couldn't believe it when I saw it!
- c You really should have read it before signing it.
- d I suppose with the benefit of hindsight I should have.
- e Couldn't you have asked your boyfriend to check it over for you?
- f They're standard forms, so I thought it would be fine.
- g They might have just checked the box themselves so they didn't have to pay the equivalent of \$8,000.
- h They wouldn't have done that, would they?
- i You must have been upset at the time.
- j They can't have just stolen the documents like that!

b "I **really can't afford to buy a new** car; it's way too expensive," he explained. (could)

c **She believes it was possibly** intentional. (might)

d I told you to get the furnace checked. Now it doesn't work, it's freezing, and it's the middle of the winter. (should)

e "I'll make sure all the doors are locked and all the lights turned off," Cathy promised. (would)

f They can't be the ones who stole the money because they didn't have enough time. (could)

Discuss with your classmates about what could have happened there.



Habits: would or Possibilities: could

should have ...

may / might have ...

would have ...

couldn't have ...

must have ...

