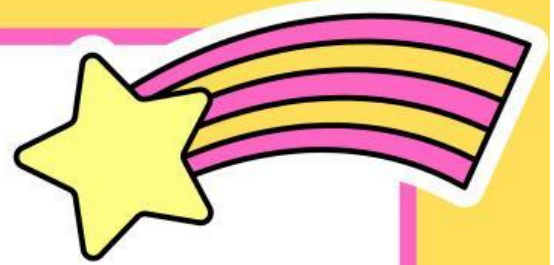


# PRONUNCIATION OF MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST:



## Reduction of "Have"

"Have" is often reduced to /əv/ in connected speech.

must have /mʌst əv/  
should have /ʃʊd əv/  
could have /kʊd əv/

## Stress and Intonation

The modal is stressed, while "have" and the past participle are less emphasized.

He **must** have forgotten.

## Contraction

In fast speech, "have" is contracted.

should have should've /ʃʊdəv/  
might have might've /maɪtəv/

## Elision

"Have" can almost disappear in casual speech.

She **musta** gone  
They **shoulda** called

## LEVELS OF CERTAINTY WITH PAST MODALS

Certainty Level	Modal	Explanation	Example Sentence
100% sure	<b>must have + VPP</b>	Indicates something that is almost certainly true.	He must have gone home early.
Possibly true	<b>may have / might have + VPP</b>	Expresses a possibility, but not certainty.	They might have taken the wrong turn.
Impossible	<b>can't have / couldn't have + VPP</b>	Shows that something was impossible or definitely didn't happen.	She can't have missed the train.
Expectation or Regret	<b>should have / ought to have + VPP</b>	Expresses that something was expected or recommended in the past, often implying regret for not having done something.	You should have done your homework.
Hypothetically Possible	<b>could have + VPP</b>	It indicates that something was possible in the past but didn't necessarily happen.	He could have been there, but he didn't come.

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT PAST MODAL: LISTENING AND DEDUCTION

I. Listen to the sentences in the audio and choose the correct modal verb that completes each sentence appropriately.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ taken the wrong train, she knows this route too well.

a) might have   b) couldn't have   c) must have

2. He \_\_\_\_\_ left the office early because the lights were off when I got there.

a) must have   b) couldn't have   c) might have

3. They \_\_\_\_\_ arrived already, but we're not sure.

a) must have   b) couldn't have   c) might have

4. You \_\_\_\_\_ sent that email before the deadline.

a) could have   b) should have   c) must have

5. He \_\_\_\_\_ forgotten his keys at the restaurant.

a) must have   b) may have   c) couldn't have



II. Listen to the audio. Fill in the gaps with the correct past modal verb based on the context.

1. I think I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) my keys at the café.

2. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) the meeting for an important reason.

3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) the tickets without an early reservation.

4. John \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) for work yet.

5. Alex \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to charge his phone.