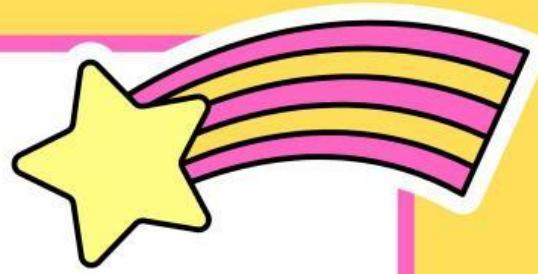


PRONUNCIATION OF MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST:



Reduction of "Have"

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

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

Contraction

In fast speech, "have" is contracted.

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

Stress and Intonation

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

He **must** have **forgotten**.

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	must have + VPP	Indicates something that is almost certainly true.	He must have gone home early.
Possibly true	may have / might have + VPP	Expresses a possibility, but not certainty.	They might have taken the wrong turn.
Impossible	can't have / couldn't have + VPP	Shows that something was impossible or definitely didn't happen.	She can't have missed the train.
Expectation or Regret	should have / ought to have + VPP	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	could have + VPP	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.