

Fill in the gaps using modal verbs and modal-like expressions of past ability – could (not), was/were (not) able to, managed to, didn't manage to, could (not) have + VIII/ed.

1. We had a really good vacation. It _____ (not, to be) better.
2. We managed to find the restaurant you recommended, but we _____ (not, to find) it without the map that you drew for us.
3. My grandmother loved music. She _____ (to play) the piano very well.
4. The staff at the hotel was really nice when we stayed there last summer. They _____ (not, to be) more helpful.
5. We didn't know where David was, but we _____ (to find) him in the end.
6. A: I tried to call you last week. We had a party, and I wanted to invite you.
B: That's nice of you, but I _____ (not, to come) anyway. I was away all last week.
7. The fire spread through the building very quickly, but fortunately everybody _____ (to escape).
8. Jack was an excellent tennis player when he was younger. He _____ (to beat) anybody.
9. I was so tired, I _____ (to sleep) for a week.
10. I didn't know that you wanted to go to the concert. I _____ (to get) you a free ticket.
11. Dave was lucky. He _____ (to hurt) himself when he fell, but he's OK.
12. Why did you stay at a hotel when you were in New York? You _____ (to stay) with Candice.
13. Jack and Ted played tennis yesterday. Ted played very well, but Jack _____ (to beat) him.
14. I looked everywhere for the book, but I _____ (not, to find) it.
15. My grandfather traveled a lot. He _____ (to speak) five languages.