13 What might have been

1 **What do you think happened? Choose an explanation for each event using past modals. Drag and drop.**







1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____







She **could have burned** the food by forgetting to check the oven.

The employee **could have gone** to lunch.

The boy **must have felt** very disappointed that nobody came to his party.

She **might have locked** her keys inside the car.

They **might have been texting** and **not seen** the car in front.

They **must have trained** really hard to win the tournament.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the two paragraphs carefully. Each paragraph contains 5 grammar or vocabulary mistakes. Identify and correct the 10 errors in total. Write the corrected words or phrases on the lines provided.

One day, something really strange happen to me. I was walking home from work when I suddenly seen a black cat sitting on my doorstep. I didn't thought much of it, but as soon as I unlocked the door, all the light in my house started flickering, and the radio turn on by itself, even though it wasn't plugged in. I feel a little scared, but I decided to go in and check the fuse box—everything looked normally. Still, the weird atmosphere made me feel uneasy all evening.

I still don't knew exactly what caused that strange moment, but I have a few idea. It might had been an electrical problem that caused the lights and radio to act up. Or it could be a coincidence, and my imagination make it feel scarier than it was. Then again, it might has been something supernatural—after all, the black cat appear out of nowhere right before it happened!

3 Answer these questions. Drag and drop two explanations using past modals.



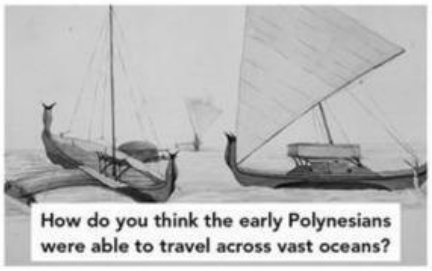
Why do you think the ancient Britons built Stonehenge?

1. _____
2. _____



How do you think early explorers communicated with people in the places they visited?

3. _____
4. _____



How do you think the early Polynesians were able to travel across vast oceans?

5. _____
6. _____

They may have followed the stars for navigation.

They could have learned the local languages.

They might have built it to use as a church.

They might have built strong canoes to cross the ocean.

They might have used gestures or drawings to communicate.

They could have used it as an astronomical calendar.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Strange creatures

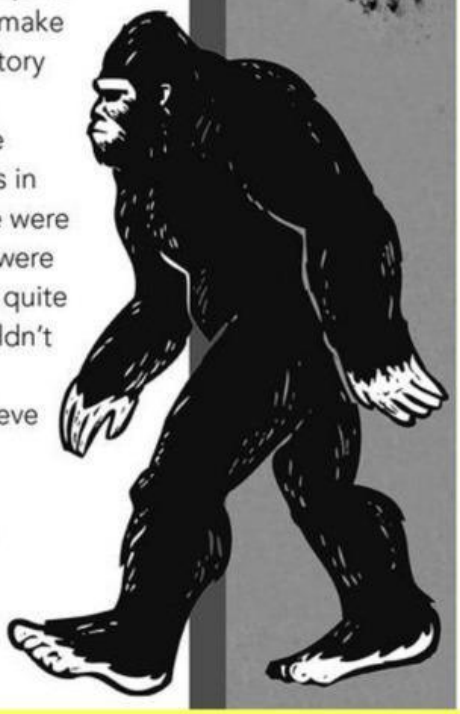
A Skim the online article about a world-famous legend. Where does the legend come from?

BIGFOOT

He has been described as a gigantic, hairy, mysterious man-like creature that lives in the forests of the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. and avoids people. He is called Bigfoot because of the big footprints people have found in the earth.

Scientists who seriously consider the possibility of Bigfoot's existence offer the explanation of ancient man-like apes that might have survived in small groups. The most popular possibility is Gigantopithecus, an ape that lived until about 100,000 years ago, was three meters (9.8 feet) tall, and weighed more than 500 kilos (1,102 pounds). Unfortunately, there are two problems with this possibility. Most scientists believe that Gigantopithecus would have walked on its hands and legs because its weight would have been too much for its legs and ankles to support. Also, the bones of this ape have only been found in Asia. It's more likely that people saw a large black bear that walks on its two legs, common in the Pacific Northwest, and they thought it was Bigfoot.

Another explanation for this mystery is that it's a hoax, a false story that some people invent as a joke. And of course they can make money by selling their story to television shows and newspapers. There have been quite a few hoaxes in the last few years. Some were very convincing, but all were proved false. If it seems quite certain that Bigfoot couldn't have existed, why do people continue to believe in creatures like this? British anthropologist Jane Goodall may have come up with the best explanation: "Well, I'm a romantic, so I always wanted them to exist."



B Read the article. Then **choose the correct** answers to the questions.

1. How might someone describe Bigfoot?

2. Imagine that you have seen a creature resembling Bigfoot. Do you think you would have believed it was Bigfoot? Why or why not?

3. What is the most popular possible explanation for Bigfoot from scientists?

4. What is one problem with this popular explanation?

5. What do you think people might have seen when they thought they saw Bigfoot?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Should have, could have, would have



A What should or shouldn't these people have done? Read each situation and check (✓) the best suggestion.

1. Mrs. King wouldn't let her children watch TV for a month because they broke a window playing baseball.
   - ☐ **She should have bought her children ice cream to reward them.**
   - ☐ **She could have made them pay for the window.**
   - ☐ **She should have encouraged them to break another window.**
2. Steve's old car broke down on the highway late one night, and his cell phone battery was dead. He left the car on the side of the road and walked home.
   - ☐ **He should have slept in his car till morning.**
   - ☐ **He should have stopped a stranger's car to ask for a ride.**
   - ☐ **He should have walked to the nearest pay phone and called a tow truck.**
3. Sarah was in a park. She saw some people leave all their trash after they had finished their picnic. She did nothing.
   - ☐ **She should have joined them in throwing more trash around**
   - ☐ **She could have thrown away the trash herself.**
   - ☐ **She did the right thing by ignoring the trash.**
4. Edward's neighbors were renovating their kitchen. They made a lot of noise every day until midnight. Edward called the police.
   - ☐ **He should have joined his neighbors in making noise.**
   - ☐ **He shouldn't have called the police because he needed to enjoy the noise.**
   - ☐ **He could have asked them not to make any noise in the evenings.**
5. Barbara's boss borrowed $20 from her a month ago, but he forgot to pay her back. Barbara never said anything about it.
   - ☐ **She should have given him another $20.**
   - ☐ **She could have written him a nice email asking for the money.**
   - ☐ She should have borrowed money from him instead.

B What would you have done in the situations in part A? Complete the suggestions or comments using past modals.

1. I _____ them pay for the window. (make)
2. I _____ to find the nearest pay phone and called for help. (walk)
3. I _____ the people politely to pick up their trash. (ask)
4. I _____ politely _____ my neighbors not to make noise late at night. (ask)
5. I _____ a friendly reminder asking him to pay back the money. (write)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 Nouns and verbs

A Complete the chart.

Noun	Verb	Noun	Verb
assumption	assume	_____	predict
criticism	_____	suggestion	_____
demand	_____	suspect	_____
excuse	_____	warning	_____

B Complete the sentences using words from the chart in part A. For the verbs, use *shouldn't have* + past participle. For the nouns, use the appropriate singular or plural form.



1. Last year some economists said that food and gas prices wouldn't increase. Those predictions were wrong! Both food and gas are more expensive now.
2. Christopher _____ having a beach party. It was so dark, I stepped in a hole and hurt my ankle.
3. Andy bought an expensive ring and gave it to Millie for her birthday. A year later, he asked her to marry him. When she said no, he made an outrageous _____. He said he wanted his ring back!
4. I _____ my co-worker not to be late for work so often. It was really none of my business.
5. Lori said she was late because she got caught in traffic. Hmm. I've heard that _____ before.
6. Kevin _____ I would still be awake at midnight. I was asleep when he called.
7. I thought that my roommate had taken my wallet, but I found it at the bottom of my bag. I _____ that my roommate took it. He would never do something like that.
8. James _____ me for wearing jeans and a T-shirt to a friend's party. He always has negative things to say.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 **Complete these conversations. Use the past modals in the box and the verbs given. (More than one modal is possible.)**

could have may have might have must have should have



1. **A:** Where's Luke? He's late.
   B: He ___may have gotten___ (get) stuck in rush-hour traffic.
   A: He's always late! You know, he ___should have taken___ (take) the subway.
2. **A:** Judy never responded to my invitation.
   B: She _____ (not receive) it. You _____ (call) her.
3. **A:** Matt hasn't answered his phone for a week.
   B: He _____ (go) on vacation. He _____ (tell) you, though – sometimes he's very inconsiderate.
4. **A:** I can never get in touch with Kathy. She never returns phone calls or answers texts!
   B: Yeah, I have the same problem with her. Her voice mail _____ (run out) of space. She _____ (get) a new phone service by now.
5. **A:** Thomas is strange. Sometimes he works really hard, but sometimes he seems pretty lazy. Last week, he hardly did any work.
   B: Well, you know, he _____ (not feel) well. Still, he _____ (tell) you that he was sick.
6. **A:** I ordered a book online a month ago, but it still hasn't arrived.
   B: They _____ (have) a problem with the warehouse, but they _____ (let) you know.

LIVEWORKSHEETS