

Reflect on Grammar

Past Modals

Use Past Modals to speculate, deduce, or make guesses about past situations based on evidence.

- She **must have slept** all day long.
- It **could have been** because she took a nap.
- She **might never have eaten** fatty food.

Structure

Subject + (must/could/might) + **have** + **past participle** + complement

Degrees of certainty about the past

Must	-----	90%	
Could	-----	50%	sure
Might	-----	30%	

3. Read the following situations and make guesses to complete the sentences. Use the Word Bank.



- a.- Kenneth has lost a lot of weight recently.
- He might _____
a very healthy diet.



- c.- Dorothy came to the gym after work every night last week.
- She _____
stressed.



- b.- Why is Sarah so tired today?
- I'm not sure. She _____
very badly last night.



- d.- Where's my salad? I left it here!
- Edward _____ it.
He loves veggies!

Word Bank

- feel
- eat
- sleep
- go on

4. Think of a healthy old person from your family or community. What makes him/her healthy? Check the boxes. Then, speculate about his/her past habits.

☐	Eating fruits and veggies
☐	Doing exercise
☐	Being in a good mood
☐	Sleeping well
☐	Eating low-fat foods
☒	Staying away from cigarettes and alcohol
☐	Being active

Mr. Garcia
must have stayed away
from cigarettes and
alcohol all of
his life!



Pronunciation

In speech, past modals are contracted.

- Listen and repeat.
 - must've - / məstəv/
 - could've - / kʊdəv/
 - might've - / maɪtəv/
- Listen to four sentences and check the past modal you hear.

	must've	could've	might've
a.			
b.			
c.			
d.			

Project Stage 1

- Work by pairs. Think of an unhealthy habit that is present in your community today.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation describing how this unhealthy habit is a problem for the community.
- Speculate about the origins of this bad habit.