

MODALS OF CERTAINTY

by Julian Conde

I. Write T (true) or F (false).

1. ___ When you are 100% sure of a fact, you should use **must** to express that certainty.
2. ___ To speculate about the present with approximately 50% certainty, you can use **might** or **may**.
3. ___ The negative form **mustn't** is the standard contraction used when expressing a high degree of certainty in the present.
4. ___ To express impossibility in the past, we use the structure **can't have** or **couldn't have** plus a past participle.
5. ___ The phrase **could have** followed by a past participle can express either a degree of certainty or a missed opportunity.
6. ___ It is grammatically correct to use the contraction **mayn't** when expressing less certainty.
7. ___ When speculating about a future event with roughly 50% certainty, you should use **should** or **ought to**.
8. ___ Modals of certainty can be used with both simple verb forms and progressive verb forms.
9. ___ In questions about the present, we typically use **could** or **might** rather than **must**.
10. ___ To show you are almost certain about a past event, you use **must have**, **had to have**, or **must not have** plus a past participle.

II Choose the best answer.

- Which sentence is the correct way to express that you are almost certain a past event did not happen?
 - A) The explorer **mustn't** have been famous.
 - B) The explorer **must not** have been famous.

- If you are speculating about a future event with only about 50% certainty, which modal should you use?
 - A) She **might** win the election.
 - B) She **should** win the election.

