

MODAL VERBS – PAST FORMS

– LOGICAL ASSUMPTION, POSSIBILITY, OBLIGATION, NECESSITY, PROHIBITION, CRITICISM –

I. Complete the sentences with the following modal verb forms then choose the right explanation for their meaning:

must have ought to have might have could have can't have needn't have
can't might not have shouldn't have must must must have had to

1. You had been travelling for ten hours – you been tired.
2. That been John you saw at the match – he's out of the country.
3. You brought sandwiches – there's a perfectly good cafeteria.
4. What a mess you've made! You been more careful.
5. I don't know why she didn't ask me how to do it – I easily helped her.
6. She thought you were too busy – I can't think of any other reason.
7. Martin really borrowed my tennis racket without asking first.
8. I don't know why Fiona's so late; do you think she got lost coming here?
9. She managed to find the time to come – you know how busy she is.
10. I explain what happened.
11. You use a dictionary during the exam.
12. The landlord said we pay the rent on time.
13. Plants have water to survive.

Explanations: duty	external obligation	prohibition	lack of necessity
supposition	logical assumption	lack of permission	lack of ability
possibility	necessity	criticism/reproach	probability
impossibility			