7A GRAMMAR past modals

a Read the conversations and the sentences in brackets. Then complete the conversations with *might (not) have, must have,* or *can't have* + past participle.

1 A Why is there so much traffic today?
B I don't know. There *might have been* an accident. (maybe there was)
2 A Can you move your leg?
B No, it hurts too much. I think I _____ it. (perhaps I have broken it)
3 A Look! The gate's open and the dog has gone.
B Oh no! We _____ it open when we went out. (I'm sure we left it open)
4 A Oh no, the cake's burning!
B You _____ the oven on too high. (you definitely put the oven on)
5 A I can't find the milk. We _____ it all. (I'm sure we didn't drink it)
B Yes, you're right. It must be in there somewhere.

6 A Where's Jeremy? He should be here.
B He _____ the email about the meeting. (perhaps he didn't see)
7 A Ellen passed all her exams with top marks!
B Wow! She _____ really hard. (I'm sure she worked)
8 A I've done my homework, Mum. I'm going out.
B What? You _____ all of it. Let me see it. (it's impossible you've finished)
9 A We didn't see Dan and Sarah at the concert.
B They _____ tickets. I think the concert was sold out. (perhaps they weren't able to get)
10 A I called you earlier, but I got your voicemail.
B Sorry. I _____ my phone by mistake. (I'm sure I switched off)

b Complete the sentences with *should / shouldn't have* and the past participle of a verb from the list.

break up buy come keep ~~take~~ tell use wait

1 We're lost. I knew we *should have taken* the second exit at the roundabout!
2 This tastes too spicy. You _____ so much chilli.
3 You _____ with James. He was perfect for you.
4 The concert was amazing. You _____ with us.
5 Jim's already gone? I don't believe it – he _____ for us.
6 I'm afraid we can't exchange the jacket now. You _____ the receipt.
7 You _____ us that you were in hospital. We would have visited you.
8 I _____ these jeans. They really don't suit me.

ACTIVATION

Write **four** conversations of two lines using *must have, might have, can't have,* and *should(n't) have.*

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