

May have, might have and could have

May/might / could have – Speculating about the past. It was possible in the past but we are not sure.

Jane and Jack have been invited to the wedding but they haven't arrived yet. Everybody is waiting for them to arrive. People are making assumptions about what might have happened.



Rewrite these sentences using may/might/could (not) have.

1. Perhaps they have forgotten where we live.

2. It's possible they've lost our address.

3. There is a possibility that they didn't get our invitation.

4. Or maybe they thought it said Thursday, not Tuesday.

5. It's possible their car has broken down.

6. Perhaps they have been held up by a traffic jam in the centre.

7. Or maybe someone telephoned them when they were leaving.

8. Perhaps they've lost their way.

9. Maybe they have gone into the wrong way.

10. Perhaps they have been stopped and robbed by the burglars.

11. It's possible that they have forgotten the wedding date.

12. Perhaps they have got sick.

Modals of Probability

Put in 'must + have + past participle'

Must have – We are almost certain about our speculation or guess.

1. You _____ (practise) a lot before you gave your speech. It was really great.
2. When Lizzie got home yesterday, there were flowers on the table. Her husband _____ (buy) them.
3. Sarah couldn't find her glasses. She thought she _____ (leave) them at her office.
4. Susie is so late! She _____ (miss) the train.
5. There's rubbish all over my garden! A fox _____ (be) in the bin.
6. Oh no, I don't have my keys! I _____ (leave) them in the taxi.
7. When Lucy got home she found the ice cream had melted. It _____ (be) too hot in the car.
8. It _____ (rain) a lot in the night. There are puddles everywhere.
9. John _____ (eat) all the biscuits! There are none left.
10. When I got up this morning, the kitchen was spotless. Lily _____ (tidy) it before she went to bed last night.