

To express possibility, regret, criticism, probability and deduction in the past.

Past modals:

Must Have + Past P.	My mother has arrived late. She must have been in a traffic jam.	To express a positive deduction about the past.
May Have + Past P.	We may have passed the math exam, but it was in French.	To express possibility in the past.
Might Have + Past P.	Alex may have taken the wrong train.	To express possibility in the past.
Could Have + Past P.	I'm sorry but, You could have played better.	To express that something was possible in the past but it didn't eventually happen
Couldn't Have + Past P.	She couldn't have passed because she hadn't studied enough.	To express a negative deduction about the past.
Would Have + Past P.	If I had guessed the future, I would have taken some precautions against what would happen.	To express regret or criticism about something that happened in the past.
Should Have + Past P.	You should have listened to the teacher.	To express regret about something that didn't happen in the past
Shouldn't Have + Past P.	She shouldn't have told them	To express regret about something that happened in the past
Needn't Have + Past P.	I needn't have read the book.	To express absence of necessity in the past (it wasn't necessary but it was done).

Let's practice:

Choose the correct past modal according to the situation:

- a- It wasn't necessary for you to buy me a birthday present.
You **could have bought** / **needn't have bought** me a birthday present.
- b- Dan is late so it's possible that his car broke down again.
Dan is late so his car **might have broken down** / **couldn't have broken** again.
- c- You were lucky that you didn't crash into the tree.
You were lucky, because you **must have crashed** / **could have crashed** into the tree.
- d- It is certain that they knew about the new Project.
They **must have known** / **might have known** about the new Project.
- e- It is not a good idea to leave the cat alone for three days.
You **may have left** / **shouldn't have left** the cat alone for three days.