

Past Modals

Name: _____

Use past modals to express thoughts about actions in the past.

Use	Examples
Draw logical conclusions	Ben didn't buy the tickets for the concert. The tickets must have been really expensive because he really wanted to go. = I am almost sure the tickets were really expensive.
Express possibility	My sister didn't go swimming yesterday. She may / might / could have felt sick. = It is possible that she felt sick.
Express impossibility or disbelief	Someone said Annie was speeding yesterday. In my opinion, she couldn't have been driving too fast. She drives so carefully all the time.
Regret	I should have studied Psychology (but unfortunately I didn't.) Camila shouldn't have bought that car (but she did it.) It was too expensive.

A. Choose the correct alternative:

- We **shouldn't / mustn't** have parked our car here. Now we don't know where it is.
- My sister **might not/ mustn't** have liked her vacations. The hotel was so crowded and the food was too spicy.
- He **must/ could** have learned Portuguese when he was a child. He speaks it so fluently.
- Considering that Daniel had never cheated on an exam before. He **shouldn't/ may not** have been expelled.
- I am so happy you did very well on the exam. You **must / should** have studied a lot.

B. Rewrite the following sentences keeping the same meaning:

- It's possible that the teacher saw me. =The teacher _____
- It wasn't a good idea for you to tell her that story. =You _____
- I think it was not a good idea to buy that car.= You _____
- It's possible that I left my English book at home because it is not here.
= I _____
- Maybe she didn't mean what she said about you. = She _____
- I'm almost sure that your classmate took your jacket by mistake.
= He _____

C. Complete each sentence with the appropriate modal and the verb in parentheses.

- We hadn't planned we were going to have 5 children. We _____ a bigger house.
(buy)
- I _____ Medicine. I _____ really good at it.
(study) (be)
- Jack lost his wallet on the way to work. He _____ it on the bus.
(lose)
- I have no idea why she married him. He _____ the only man available.
(be)
- Camila has won every game she's played today. She _____ a lot.
(practice)
- You _____ your dog. He has been hungry all day.
(feed)