Unit 22 Grammar

Modals 3: the modal perfect

Modals + the perfect infinitive

Form

modal + *have* + past participle

statement	negative	question
*You **should have told** me you were going shopping.*	*You **shouldn't (should not) have told** Liz what Bill said.*	***Should** I **have invited** Carol to the party?*

Watch out! Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

Ability

Use	Modal	Example
To say that someone had the opportunity or ability to do something, but didn't do it	*could*	*We **could have gone** to the party, but we decided not to in the end.*

Watch out! We use *this* for things that someone didn't actually do. For general ability in the past, we use *could* + bare infinitive (see Unit 19).

✓ *I **could play** the guitar when I was seven.* (= I knew how to play the guitar.)

✓ *I **could have played** the guitar.* (= I had the opportunity to play the guitar, but I didn't actually play it.)

Criticism

Use	Modal	Example
To say that someone's past behaviour was bad or wrong	*ought to / should*	*You **should have invited** Carol to your party.* (= You didn't invite Carol and that was wrong.)

Probability and possibility

Use	Modal	Example
Strong probability	*must / can't*	*They **must have had** a lovely holiday!* (= It's almost certain that they had a lovely holiday.)
		*They **can't have had** any sleep!* (= It's almost certain that they didn't have any sleep.)
Possibility	*could / may / might*	*Helen **might have found** a new house.* (= It's possible, but I'm not certain.)

Expectation

Use	Modal	Example
To show you expected the past to be different from what actually happened	*ought to / should*	*Jim **should have arrived** half an hour ago. I wonder where he is.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Complete using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 We could ..... (**take**) the bus, but in the end we decided to walk.
2 Although I could ..... (**buy**) the DVD, I actually got the video.
3 Alan could ..... (**go**) to the concert with Sindy, but he stayed at home instead.
4 They could ..... (**catch**) an earlier plane, but they decided to get the later one.
5 Could you ..... (**stay**) longer or did you have to leave then?

B Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use ***should*** or ***shouldn't*** and the correct form of the verbs in the box.

eat • get • kick • take • tidy • wear



1 Mr Appleby ..... an umbrella with him.
2 Jenny ..... her room.
3 Alex ..... the ball so hard.
4 Tim ..... a fancy-dress costume.
5 They ..... there earlier.
6 They ..... so much!

C Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

1 I expect Adrian did a lot of revision. **must**
Adrian ..... a lot of revision.

2 I don't believe that Jim stole the money. **can't**
Jim ..... the money.

3 It's possible that I have made a mistake. **could**
I ..... a mistake.

4 There's a chance that someone saw us. **may**
Someone ..... us.

5 It's possible that Tim hasn't arrived yet. **might**
Tim ..... yet.

6 I'm sure that Irene wasn't at the party because she was ill. **have**
Irene ..... at the party because she was ill.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Complete each second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1 We were expecting Dave to call, but he hasn't.
Dave should have called .

2 They said they were going to deliver the computer at lunchtime, but they didn't.
They should .

3 I was expecting the film to come out at the cinema last week.
The film ought .

4 The shop wasn't supposed to close so early.
The shop shouldn't .

5 Was the programme supposed to start at eight o'clock?
Should ?

E Choose the correct answer.

1 Ronny ..... have gone to Switzerland, but I'm not totally sure.
A must C can't
B could D should

2 You ..... have lied to me! Why didn't you tell me the truth?
A mustn't C shouldn't
B might not D couldn't

3 Helen ..... to have seen a doctor weeks ago. Why didn't she?
A ought C must
B should D can't

4 They ..... have seen the play last night as they went to a football match instead.
A could C might
B must D can't

5 Carl ..... have been here by now. Maybe he got stuck in traffic.
A might C should
B must D can't

6 You ..... have been really excited when you heard you'd won the competition!
A must C might
B should D could

F Write one word in each gap.

My cousin Tina

My cousin Tina is a professional dancer. Her mum – my aunt – says that Tina (**1**) ..... dance really well even before she was able to walk!

When Tina was ten, she could (**2**) ..... gone to a special school for dancers in New York, but she decided not to because she didn't want to leave her friends. Even today, Tina's mum thin that Tina (**3**) ..... have gone to the school. I'm sure it (**4**) ..... have been a very difficult decision for Tina to make, but she says that she doesn't regret not going. Sh carried on dancing in her spare time, often getting up at five o'clock in the morning for a dance lesson before school. That can't have (**5**) ..... much fun!

Today, she's really successful. She's been in lots of shows and she's even appeared on TV a few times In fact, she (**6**) ..... have got the main part in a new show in London. She's not sur yet. They (**7**) ..... to have contacted her yesterday about it, but they didn't. Hopefu she'll hear in the next few days. Whether she gets the part or not, I'm really proud of my cousin!

LIVEWORKSHEETS