

Reflect on Grammar

Past Modals

Use Past Modals to speculate, deduce, or make guesses about past situations based on evidence.

- She **must have slept** all day long.
- It **could have been** because she took a nap.
- She **might never have eaten** fatty food.

Structure

Subject + (must/could/might) + have + past participle + complement

Degrees of certainty about the past

Must	90%	sure
Could	50%	
Might	30%	

3. Read the following situations and make guesses to complete the sentences.

Use the Word Bank.



- a. - Kenneth has lost a lot of weight recently.
- He might have been on a very healthy diet.



- c. - Dorothy came to the gym after work every night last week.
- She must have slept very little stressed.



- b. - Why is Sarah so tired today?
- I'm not sure. She might have stayed up very badly last night.



- d. - Where's my salad? I left it here!
- Edward must have eaten it.
He loves veggies!

4. Think of a healthy old person from your family or community. What makes him/her healthy? Check the boxes. Then, speculate about his/her past habits.

Eating fruits and veggies

Doing exercise

Being in a good mood

Sleeping well

Eating low-fat foods

Staying away from cigarettes and alcohol

Being active

Mr. Garcia
must have stayed away
from cigarettes and
alcohol all of
his life!



Pronunciation

In speech, past modals are contracted.

1. Listen and repeat.
 - must've - /mʌst've/
 - could've - /kudəv/
 - might've - /mɪtəv/
2. Listen to four sentences and check the past modal you hear.

must've **could've** **might've**

a.

b.

c.

d.

Project Stage 1

- Work by pairs. Think of an unhealthy habit that is present in your community today.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation describing how this unhealthy habit is a problem for the community.
- Speculate about the origins of this bad habit.