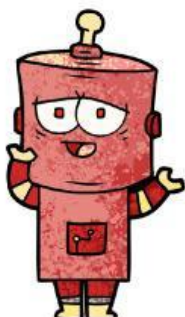


n.b.



THE PERFECT INFINITIVE AFTER MODAL VERBS: SHOULD, MAY, MUST, CAN'T

1. Should + Have + Past Participle

- Expresses **regret or criticism** about a past action.
If someone **didn't do** something important, we say they **should have done it**.
e.g. You **should have told me** about it earlier.
- If someone **did something wrong**, we say they **shouldn't have done it**.
e.g. You **shouldn't have gone** there on your own.

2. May + Have + Past Participle

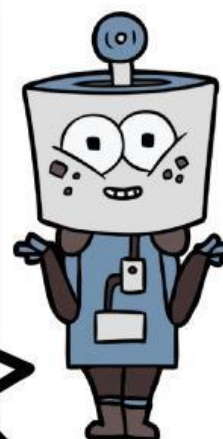
- Expresses **possibility** in the past.
- Suggests that something **perhaps happened**.
e.g. I can't find my keys. I **may have lost** them.

3. Must + Have + Past Participle

- Expresses **strong certainty** about a past event.
- Suggests that we feel **almost sure** something happened.
e.g. She is late. She **must have missed** the bus.

4. Can't + Have + Past Participle

- Expresses **strong certainty** that something **did not happen**.
- Suggests that we feel **almost sure** something is impossible.
e.g. He **can't have failed** the test. He works so hard.



• Rewrite these sentences with *may have* ...

- Perhaps he made a mistake.
- Perhaps I have lost my keys.
- Perhaps they went on holiday.
- Perhaps this house was a museum once.
- Perhaps she has found a new job.
- Perhaps they were right.

• Use the words in brackets to write sentences with *must have* and *can't have*.

- The exam was easy. (he/pass/it)
- Her office is locked. (she/go/home)
- She looks upset. (she/ get/ the job)
- The car isn't here. (John/take/it)
- The flowers have died. (you/water/them)
- I didn't hear my phone. (I/be/asleep)
- He is always very polite. (he/say/such things)

Complete the sentences with *may have...*, *must have...*, *can't have...*, *should have...*, *shouldn't have...*

- I don't have my wallet with me. I _____ left it at home.
- I am sure you know this song. You _____ heard it before.
- Bill did the opposite of what I asked him. He _____ understood what I said.
- 'How does Nick know I have lost my job?'
'I don't know. Sue _____ told him'.
- I wonder why they are not here yet. They _____ arrived an hour ago.
- I'm feeling bad. I _____ eaten those crisps.
- 'Why wasn't Helen at the meeting yesterday?'
'I don't know. She _____ forgotten about it'.
- It rained every day during their holiday. It _____ been very pleasant for them.
- 'Where is Phil?'
'I don't know. He _____ gone home'.

