

past modals

must / might / may / can't / couldn't + have + past participle



- 1 I **must have left** my phone at Anna's. I definitely remember having it there. (4 4))
You **must have seen** something. You were there when the accident happened.
- 2 Somebody **might have stolen** your wallet when you were getting off the train.
He still hasn't arrived. I **may not have given** him the right directions.
- 3 She **can't have gone** to bed. It's only ten o'clock!
You **can't have seen** their faces very clearly. It was too dark.

- We use *must / may / might / can't + have + past participle* to make deductions or speculate about past actions.

- 1 We use *must have* when we are almost sure that something happened or was true.



The opposite of *must have* is *can't have* – see 3 below
NOT *mustn't have*

- 2 We use *might / may have* when we think it's possible that something happened or was true. We can also use *could have* with this meaning, e.g. *Somebody could have stolen your wallet when you were getting off the train.*
- 3 We use *can't have* when we are almost sure something didn't happen or that it is impossible. We can also use *couldn't have* when the speculation is about the distant past, e.g. *You couldn't have seen their faces very clearly, e.g. She couldn't have gone to bed. It's only ten o'clock.*

should have / ought to have + past participle

We've gone the wrong way. We **shouldn't have turned** left at the traffic lights. (4 5))

It's my fault. I **ought to have told** you earlier that my mother was coming.

- Use *should have + past participle* to say that somebody didn't do the right thing, or to express regret or criticism.
- You can use *ought to have* as an alternative to *should have*, e.g. *I ought to have told you earlier.*

- a Rewrite the **bold** sentences using *must / might (not) / can't + have + verb*.

I'm certain I left my umbrella at home. It's not in the office.

I must have left my umbrella at home.

- 1 Holly's crying. **Perhaps she's had an argument with her boyfriend.** She...
- 2 **I'm sure Ben has read my email.** I sent it first thing this morning. Ben...
- 3 **I'm sure Sam and Ginny haven't got lost.** They have satnav in their car. *Sam and Ginny...*
- 4 **You saw Ellie yesterday? That's impossible.** She was in bed with flu. *You...*
- 5 **Perhaps John didn't see you.** That's why he didn't say hello. *John...*
- 6 **I'm sure Lucy has bought a new car.** I saw her driving a blue VW Golf! *Lucy...*
- 7 **I'm sure Alex wasn't very ill.** He was only off work for one day. *Alex...*
- 8 They didn't come to our wedding. **Maybe they didn't receive the invitation.** *They...*
- 9 This tastes very sweet. **I'm sure you used too much sugar.** *You...*
- 10 **It definitely wasn't my phone** that rang in the cinema. Mine was on silent. *It...*

- b Respond to the first sentence using *should / shouldn't have* or *ought / oughtn't to have + a verb* in the list.

buy come eat go invite learn sit write take

A We couldn't understand anybody in Paris.

B You *should have learnt* some French before you went.

A Sue is in bed with a stomach ache.

B She *oughtn't to have eaten* so much chocolate cake yesterday.

1 A Tom told me the date of his party, but I've forgotten it.

B You _____ it down.

2 A I was late because there was so much traffic.

B You _____ by car. The metro is much faster.

3 A Amanda was rude to everyone at my party.

B You _____ her. You know what she's like.

4 A I don't have any money left after going shopping yesterday.

B You _____ so many shoes. Did you really need three pairs?

5 A You look really tired.

B I know. I _____ to bed earlier last night.

6 A The chicken's still frozen solid.

B I know. You _____ it out of the freezer earlier.

7 A I think I've burnt my face.

B I'm not surprised. You _____ in the sun all afternoon without any sunscreen.