



Past Modals

Past Modals

What is a modal verb?

Why are modal verbs special?

Can you provide some examples?



Past Modals

subject

modal

have

past participle

She must have gone to the shops

He should have seen her there

Past Modals

- Must have
- Can't have
- Should have / shouldn't have
- Ought to have / ought not to have
- Might have / mightn't have
- May have/ may not have
- Could have / couldn't have
- Would have /wouldn't have

must have

Very certain about a past event

She must have gone to the shops

can't have

A past event is impossible

You can't have left your keys at home because I saw them in the car.

should have

Strongly predict something has happened

*The plane should have landed at
4pm.*

shouldn't have

Strongly predict something has not
happened

The plane shouldn't have landed yet.

should have

Good idea to do in the past but you
didn't do it

*I should have studied more English
at school.*

ought to have

Good idea to do in the past but you
didn't do it

*I ought to have studied more English
at school.*

shouldn't have

You did something in the past but it
was a bad idea

I shouldn't have left you

ought not to have

You did something in the past but it
was a bad idea

I ought not to have left you

might have

50% certain about a past event

*I have a feeling I might have left the
door unlocked.*

mightn't have

50% certain about a past event

He mightn't have locked the door.

may have

50% certain about a past event

*I have a feeling I may have left the
door unlocked.*

may not have

50% certain about a past event

He may not have locked the door

could have

50% certain about a past event

*I have a feeling I could have left the
door unlocked.*

couldn't have

Almost certain about a past event

*I couldn't have arrived any earlier
because I was stuck in traffic*

could have

Something was possible but you
didn't do it

*I could have taken my exam in
summer but I didn't feel prepared.*

couldn't have

Something was impossible

*I couldn't have entered the exam
because the deadline had passed.*

would have

(conditional)
Imaginary situation

I would have arrived earlier if I could.

Must have	Certain of past event (100%)	<i>She must have gone to the shops</i>
Can't have Couldn't have	Impossible past event (0%)	<i>You can't have left your keys</i>
Should have	Strong past prediction (80%) Good idea you didn't do	<i>The plane should have landed I should have studied harder</i>
Shouldn't have	Strong past prediction (80%) Bad idea you did	<i>The plane shouldn't have landed yet I shouldn't have left you</i>
Ought to have	Good idea you didn't do	<i>I ought to have studied harder</i>
Ought not to have	Bad idea you did	<i>I ought not to have left you</i>
Might have Mightn't have May have May not have Could have	50% certain of past event	<i>I might have left the door unlocked</i>
Could have	Past possibility you didn't do	<i>I could have taken my exam</i>
Would have	Imaginary situation	<i>I would have earlier if I could</i>

Past Modals Pronunciation

must have

CORRECT

mʌst hæv

NATIVE

məstə

Past Modals Pronunciation

can't have

CORRECT

kɑ:nt hæv

NATIVE

kɑ:ntə

Past Modals Pronunciation

couldn't have

CORRECT

kʊdnt hæv

NATIVE

kədntə

Past Modals Pronunciation

should have

CORRECT

ʃʊd hæv

NATIVE

ʃədə

Past Modals Pronunciation

shouldn't have

CORRECT

ʃʊdnt hæv

NATIVE

ʃədntə

Past Modals Pronunciation

ought to have

CORRECT

ɔ:t tə hæv

NATIVE

ɔ:tə əv

Past Modals Pronunciation

ought not to have

CORRECT

ɔ:t nɒt tə hæv

NATIVE

ɔ:t nɒt tə əv

Past Modals Pronunciation

might have

CORRECT

maɪt hæv

NATIVE

maɪtə

Past Modals Pronunciation

mightn't have

CORRECT

maɪnt hæv

NATIVE

maɪntə

Past Modals Pronunciation

may have

CORRECT

meɪ hæv

NATIVE

meɪə

Past Modals Pronunciation

may not have

CORRECT

meɪ nɒt hæv

NATIVE

meɪ nɒt ə

Past Modals Pronunciation

could have

CORRECT

kʊd hæv

NATIVE

kədə

Past Modals Pronunciation

would have

CORRECT

wʊd hæv

NATIVE

wədə



Practice 1

Correct these incorrect sentences.

I must have left earlier because I missed
my bus.

I must have left earlier because I missed my bus.



I should have left earlier because I missed my bus.

I'm so sorry, I may not have arrived any earlier because the road was closed.

I'm so sorry, I may not have arrived any earlier because the road was closed.



I'm so sorry, I couldn't have arrived any earlier because the road was closed.

I'm not certain but I think I must have left my phone at home. Can you check?

I'm not certain but I think I must have left my phone at home. Can you check?



I'm not certain but I think I may have left my phone at home.
Can you check?

I couldn't have eaten so much cake, I
don't feel very well now!

I couldn't have eaten so much cake, I
don't feel very well now!



I shouldn't have eaten so much
cake, I don't feel very well now!

If I'd known you worked there, I ought to
have come to see you.

If I'd known you worked there, I ought to
have come to see you.



If I'd known you worked there, I
would have come to see you.

Why didn't you tell me you were coming? I must have prepared some tea.

Why didn't you tell me you were coming? I must have prepared some tea.



Why didn't you tell me you were coming? I could have prepared some tea.

Must have	Certain of past event (100%)	<i>She must have gone to the shops</i>
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Would have	Imaginary situation	<i>I would have earlier if I could</i>

I know you definitely brought them with
you so you may not have left them at
home.

I know you definitely brought them with you so you may not have left them at home.



I know you definitely brought them with you so you can't not have left them at home.



Practice 2

Read the situation then predict what happened to end up in this situation. Include a past modal in your sentence.

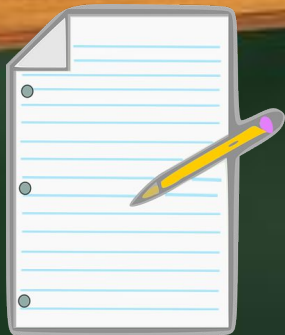
Past Modals

- ➡ She arrived late at work.
- ➡ His breath smells.
- ➡ They don't have any money.
- ➡ He is walking with crutches.
- ➡ She arrives at work covered in dirt and with messy hair.
- ➡ He comes out of the teachers office and looks very happy.
- ➡ He is crying and his bike is on the ground.
- ➡ The mother is very angry and the children are crying and scared.
- ➡ He is very pale and doesn't look very well.
- ➡ She is replacing the bin bag in the kitchen bin.
- ➡ He is jumping up and down with a ticket in his hand.
- ➡ They are driving home from work with the child in the back of the car.
- ➡ They were chatting very intensely but then she suddenly stormed off.
- ➡ He has a suitcase and lots of presents with him.
- ➡ She recognises the man standing next to her at the park.

REVIEW



Past Modals



HOMEWORK

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/topic/past-modals-whats-the-story/>