

USE MODALS + HAVE

INTRODUCTION



Sometimes we want to talk about the **past**, but not only *what* happened. We want to say:

- What we **think probably** happened.
- What **maybe** happened.
- What **was a mistake** or a **better idea**.

We can use **modals + have** for this:

- *He **must have** forgotten his keys.* (I'm almost sure)
- *She **might have** missed the bus.* (maybe)
- *I **should have** studied more.* (it was a better idea)

In this lesson, you will read and write about **situations in the past**, and you will practice using:

Must have, might have, could have, should have, can't have.

What do you think happened?

Look at these situations (imagine them):

1. Your friend is **30 minutes late**. You are waiting.
2. Your teacher **didn't come** to class today.
3. There is **no homework** in the platform.

Write in your notebook **3-4 sentences** in simple English saying what you think:

- *Maybe...*
- *I think...*

Example:

My friend is late. Maybe there is a lot of traffic. I think he forgot the time.

Purpose: Activate the idea that we do not know exactly what happened, but we can imagine.

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VOCABULARY

1 Past situations and problems

Word / phrase	Example
Late	He was late for class.
Traffic	There was a lot of traffic.
Miss the bus	She missed the bus this morning.
Forget	He forgot his homework.
Lose (lost)	I lost my keys.
Disappear	My wallet disappeared at the party.
Tired	She was very tired last night.
Sick	He was sick yesterday.
Accident	There was a small accident on the road.
Noise / noisy	There was a lot of noise in the hallway.

2 Clues, evidence, and explanations

Word / phrase	Example
Clue	We found a clue: the window was open.
Evidence	There is no evidence of a crime.
Reason	What is the reason for his absence?
Explanation	We need an explanation.
Truth	We don't know the truth.
Lie	Maybe it was a lie.
Honest	He is usually honest.
Mistake	It was a big mistake.
Regret	I have a big regret about last year.
On purpose	He didn't do it on purpose.

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3 Vocabulary for Possibility and Probability

Word / phrase	Example
Maybe / perhaps	Maybe he is at home.
I think / I guess	I think she forgot.
I'm sure / I'm not sure	I'm sure it was an accident.
Probably	He probably took the wrong bus.
Impossible	That's impossible.

GRAMMAR - MODALS (MIGHT/MUST/SHOULD) + HAVE

MIGHT

Use **might** or **might not** to say that something is possible now or in the future but we aren't sure.

I		buy a car
You		
He/she/It	might	go out
We		
You	might not	go out
They		

Examples:

Mary **might** win the contest.
It **might not** rain tomorrow.

MUST

Use **must** when **you** think something is necessary and **mustn't** when something is **prohibited**.

I		tidy my room
You		
He/she/It	must	study more
We		
You	mustn't	park here
They		

Examples:

You **must** clean your teeth.
You **mustn't** step on the grass.

MUST

Use **should** or **shouldn't** to give advice. Affirmative and negative have the same meaning.

I		recycle
You		
He/she/It	should	exercise
We		
You	shouldn't	smoke
They		

Examples:

You **should** eat lots of fruit.
You **shouldn't** drink alcohol.

We will work with 3 groups:

- **Might have / could have** = a possible past explanation, but we are not sure.
- **Must have** = we are almost sure about what happened in the past.
- **Should have** = the better action in the past (regret / advice about the past).

1.1 General form

Structure:

Modal + have + past participle

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Examples:

1. He **must have forgotten** his keys.
2. She **might have missed** the bus.
3. They **could have gone** to the wrong classroom.
4. I **should have studied** more for the exam.
5. He **can't have done** all this homework in 10 minutes.

In all cases, the structure is:

Modal (must / might / could / should / can't) + have + past participle (forgotten, missed, gone, studied, done)

3.2 *Must have* - almost certain that something happened in the past

Use: to say what you believe happened in the past when you have strong evidence.

Structure:

Subject + must have + past participle

Examples:

1. *He is not here and it's late. He **must have gone** home.*
2. *Her phone is off. She **must have forgotten** to charge it.*
3. *The lights are off. They **must have left** the office already.*
4. *She looks very tired. She **must have studied** all night.*
5. *There is water on the floor. Someone **must have spilled** something.*
6. *The door is open. He **must have arrived** before us.*
7. *There are no cookies left. The children **must have eaten** them.*

3.3 Might Have / Could Have - Past possibility

Use: to talk about something that may have happened, but we are not certain.

Structure:

Subject + might have + past participle

Subject + could have + past participle

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Examples:

1. *She is late. She **might have missed** the bus.*
2. *He didn't answer the phone. He **might have been** in a meeting.*
3. *They look happy. They **might have won** the game.*
4. *I don't see my keys. I **might have left** them at work.*
5. *We lost the match. We **could have played** better.*
6. *He **could have taken** the wrong train.*
7. *The noise **might have come** from the street.*

3.4 Should Have - better action in the past (Regret / Advice)

Use: to say what would have been better to do in the past (regret).

Structure:

Subject + should have + past participle

Subject + shouldn't have + past participle

Examples:

1. *I failed the exam. I **should have studied** more.*
2. *I was very tired today. I **should have gone** to bed earlier.*
3. *She is angry. I **shouldn't have shouted** at her.*
4. *We got lost. We **should have checked** the map.*
5. *He is sick now. He **shouldn't have eaten** so much fast food.*
6. *They missed the flight. They **should have arrived** at the airport earlier.*
7. *I spent all my money. I **should have saved** some.*

CONVERSATION - WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED?

Lena: Hey, Mark. Did you hear about Carlos? He didn't come to the exam this morning.

Mark: Really? That's strange. He studied a lot. He **must have had** a problem.

Lena: Maybe. He **might have missed** the bus. There was a lot of traffic today.

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Mark: Yes, or he **could have been** sick. He looked tired yesterday.

Lena: He **should have called** the teacher. Now he has to take the exam next month.

Mark: That's true. He **shouldn't have stayed** up so late last night.

Lena: Do you think he will pass next time?

Mark: I think so. He is a good student. He **must have been** very upset today.

References:

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