

LEVEL
Intermediate

**NUMBER
EN BE 3823G**

LANGUAGE
English

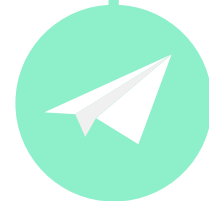




Goals

- Can identify past modals of deduction and explain their use.
- Can accurately use a range of modals of deduction to speculate about actions in the past.





It **must have been hard** to survive in England before you learned English.

It **can't have been** easy making conversation with people there.

You speak English really well now, so you **must have been practising!**



Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, we will practise using **past modals of deduction** to discuss events that we **believe** to have happened in the **past**.



Tom bought a very expensive car yesterday, so he **must have won** the lottery!



Must have/mustn't have

- **Must** is used when we are **certain** that something happened in the **past**.
- We use this structure:
 - **must + have + past participle**.



They **must have closed** the road because of the snow.

Patricia **mustn't have left** the office yet.
Her computer is still on.





Might, may and could have

- We use ***might, may, and could*** when we think it is **possible** that something **happened in the past**, but we are **not certain**.
- We use this structure:
 - ***Might/may/could + have + past participle.***



Mark **might have eaten** lunch already.
I'm not sure, so let's ask him.

Anthony **could have spoken** to the
client already. Please check before you
call them.





Can't, couldn't have



- Take care with **can't** or **couldn't have**!
- Their meaning is different from **may not** and **might not**.
- What is the difference between the two sentences below?



James **can't / couldn't have known** it was my birthday. I didn't tell anyone at the office.

James **might not have known** it was my birthday. I only told a few people.





Match the sentences

What do each of these sentences mean?

1. They **can't have read** my email.

2. They **must have read** my email.

3. They **have read** my email.

4. They **might/may have read** my email.

a. I know for certain that they have read my email.

b. I believe it's possible that they have read my email.

c. I believe they haven't read my email.

d. I believe they have read my email.



Complete the sentences using *must have* or *can't have*

1. I haven't seen Albert working at the bar in ages. (he / change jobs)

Example: He **must have changed** jobs.

2. Barbara is still taking the bus. (she / pass / her driving test)

3. I love your new dress! (it / expensive)

4. Antonio hasn't arrived yet. (his flight / delayed)





Using past modals of deduction

There are two short dialogues below. Use *might have* + past participle or *couldn't have* + past participle to complete the sentences.



Was the client we met last week American?

I'm not sure. He _____ Canadian.



Which printer did Frances use to print the agenda yesterday?

She _____ the new printer, because that was only installed this morning.





Using past modals of deduction

Here are two more dialogues. This time, use *might not have* + past participle or *could have* + past participle to complete the sentences.



Why do you think Imran wasn't at the conference this year?

I don't know. He _____ about it.



Do you think Jessie is coming?

Maybe not. She _____.





What could have happened to the missing mug?

Rosie's mug is missing at the office. Roman and Amelia are investigating its disappearance. Read the dialogue and fill the gaps with the correct use of modal verbs.

Amelia: Rosie thinks she _____ left it in the staff kitchen but she _____ brought it to work today at all.

Roman: Someone _____ used it by mistake. What does it look like?

Amelia: It is a lovely deep red with cool white snowflakes on it. Whoever took it _____ noticed them. It is a very recognisable and desirable mug.

Roman: Well Phillipe says it _____ been him who took it, as he hasn't had a hot drink today.

Amelia: Rosie says she took it out of the cupboard and then her phone rang, so she went to her desk. It _____ taken then.

Roman: I don't think we should waste time with this...





Writing with modals

Rosie's mug is still missing. Roman and Amelia have some evidence, but they have not found the mug so they must deduce what happened.

What do you think might have happened to the mug?

Amelia really likes
the mug...

Roman wants to
stop the
investigation...





Must/mustn't have been ...ing

- When we are **almost certain** that an **action was happening over a period of time** in the past, we use the structure:
 - ***must + have + been + -ing form of the verb***
 - The action **started in the past** and may **still be continuing to take place now**.



I'm so sorry I'm late! You **must have been waiting** for ages!

I didn't know Carl lives in Chicago now.
He **mustn't have been living** there very long.





Might, may and could have been ...ing

- When it's **possible** that an action was **happening over a period of time in the past**, we use the structure:
 - ***Might/may/could + have + been + -ing form of the verb***



He **might have been cooking** when I got home. I think I saw a light on in the kitchen.

I **could have been paying** too much rent since last year. I need to call my landlord and check.





Can't have been ...ing



- We use **can't/couldn't + have + been + -ing form** when we believe it is not possible for something to have been **happening in the past**.



Ian **can't have been listening** during the meeting. He was falling asleep at the table.



Must have been and *can't have been* in deductions

Can you explain how the two sentences below differ in meaning?



I must have been
driving faster than
30mph.

I can't have been
driving faster than
30mph.



Complete the sentences

1. Edward is soaking wet! (he / walk / rain)

Example: He **must have been walking in the rain.**

2. How did she find out? (listen / someone)

3. Did I wake you? (I / snore/ that loudly)

4. I didn't see the film. (Joanna / watch before she went to bed)





Match the sentences to the pictures and use continuous forms to complete them

1. She _____ where she was going. (**can't / look**)

2. He didn't hear the doorbell. He _____. (**must / shower**)

3. Clive didn't come. He _____ his son from school. (**might / collect**)

4. They broke up. Things _____ well. (**can't / go**)

5. You _____. You were watching TV! (**couldn't / study**)

6. Grace is sweaty. She _____. (**must / run**)

7. _____

8. _____

A



C



E



G



Think of your own sentences for numbers 7 and 8!

D



F



H





Look at the following photo

Where could the photographer have taken this photo? What could he or she have been doing there?





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

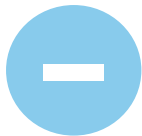
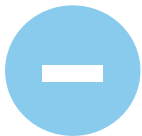
no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key 1/2

Exercise p. 8
1. c 2. d 3. a 4. b

Exercise p. 9
2. She **can't have passed** her driving test.
3. It **must have been expensive**.
4. His flight **must have been delayed**.

Exercise p. 10
He **might/could/may have been** Canadian.
She **couldn't have used** the new printer.

Exercise p. 11
He **might not have known** about it.
She **could have forgotten**.



Answer key 2/2

Exercise p. 12

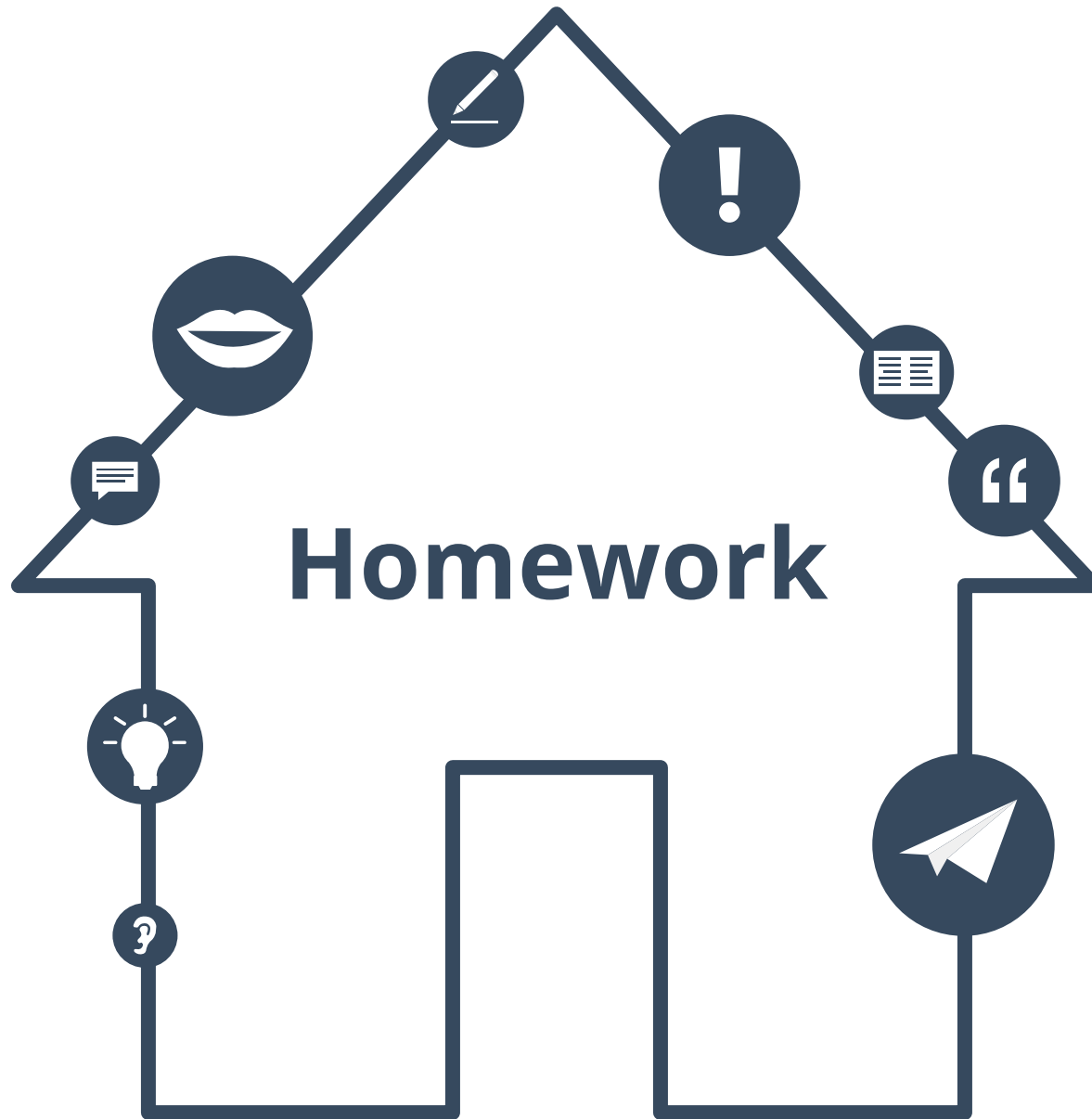
Rosie thinks she **could have left** it in the staff room but she **might not have** brought it to work today at all. Someone **must have used** it by mistake. What does it look like? It is a lovely deep red with cool white snowflakes on it. Whoever took it **must have noticed** them. It is a very recognisable and desirable mug. Well Philippe says it **can't have been** him who took it, as he hasn't had a hot drink today. Rosie says she took it out of the cupboard and then her phone rang, so she went to her desk. It **must have been taken** then. I don't think we should waste time on this...

Exercise p. 18

2. Someone **could have been listening**.
3. I **can't have been snoring** that loudly.
4. Joanna **might have been watching** before she went to bed.

Exercise p. 19

1. e 2. g 3. b 4. h 5. f 6. a
7. c or d – possible answer: The driver must have been speeding.
8. c or d – possible answer: They could have been baking together.





Homework writing activity

Imagine that you don't know what your best friend or partner did last night. What might they have been doing? Use past modals of deduction like the examples below.

He couldn't have been very busy because he rang me twice.

He could've been babysitting my friend's child.

He may not have done anything at all.

He might have gone to the pub to watch the football.

She mustn't have gone out because she starts work early today.

He didn't have plans so he can't have had much fun.

○ My best friend couldn't have been at
○ home last night because he has a
○ concert tonight and needed to
○ prepare, but he might have gone out to
○ visit his girlfriend.
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