

Modality Progressive & Modality Perfect Exercises

► Practice 4. Degrees of certainty: past time. (Chart 10-3)

Which sentence describes the given sentences? Circle the correct letter.

1. The little boy is crying. His knees are scraped and bleeding.
 - a. He may have fallen down.
 - b. He must have fallen down.
2. Someone called, but I don't know who it was. Maybe it was Alice, but I'm not sure.
 - a. It may have been Alice.
 - b. It must have been Alice.
3. Nobody's answering the phone at Juan's apartment. I guess he has already left for the airport. He always likes to get to the airport early, you know.
 - a. He might have already left for the airport.
 - b. He must have already left for the airport.
4. I've lost track of my old friend Lola from high school. Maybe she moved away. Maybe she got married and has a different last name.
 - a. She could have moved away.
 - b. She must have moved away.
5. Irv looks unhappy today. Maybe his boss criticized him. Maybe he had an argument with his girlfriend. Maybe he lost a lot of money in the stock market.
 - a. Irv might have had an argument with his girlfriend.
 - b. Irv must have had an argument with his girlfriend.
6. I told Charles — only Charles — about my secret engagement, but now everyone is congratulating me! It's clear that Charles can't keep a secret.
 - a. Charles may have told everyone.
 - b. Charles must have told everyone.

► **Practice 5. Degrees of certainty: past time negative.** (Chart 10-3)

Write the past negative of an appropriate modal and the verb in parentheses.

1. ANN: I've called Howard ten times, I'm sure. He doesn't answer his cell phone.

SAM: He (*remember*) _____ you were going to call him.
He's a little forgetful, you know. I'll bet he forgot to turn his phone on.

2. LAWYER: Mr. Jones, where were you on the night of June 24th?

MR. JONES: I was at home. I was at home all night.

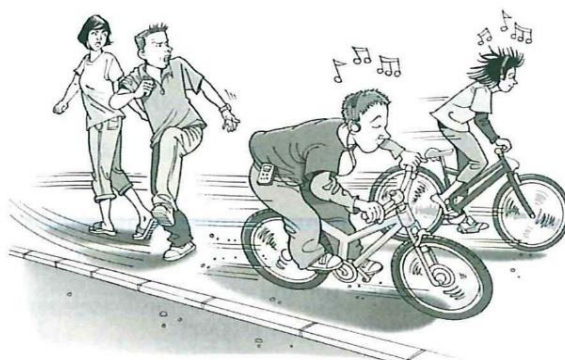
LAWYER: You (*be*) _____ at home on that night, Mr. Jones. Four witnesses saw you at the victim's apartment.

3. JIM: Look! There are lights on in the Thompsons' house. Didn't they go away on vacation?

ANN: They (*leave*) _____ yet. Or maybe they left the automatic timer on to deter burglars.

4. BOB: Hey, you guys! You are not supposed to ride your bikes on the sidewalk! You could crash into someone!

SUE: They (*hear*) _____ you, Bob. Look! They just kept going.



5. Scientists are not sure why the Mayan civilization collapsed. The Mayans (*have*) _____ enough to eat, or perhaps their enemies became too strong for them.
6. After his voyage on the *Kon Tiki*, Thor Heyerdahl set forth the theory that modern Polynesians descended from ancient South Americans. However, later scientists believe this (*happen*) _____. They believe it was impossible because of recent DNA evidence to the contrary.

► **Practice 6. Degrees of certainty: present and past time.** (Charts 10-1 → 10-3)

Complete the dialogues with **must** and the verb in parentheses. Use the correct present or past form. Use **not** if necessary.

1. A: You got here in twenty minutes! You (*drive*) _____ really fast.
Normally it's a forty-minute drive.

B: No faster than usual.

► **Practice 8. Degrees of certainty: future time.** (Chart 10-4)

Complete the sentences in Column A with a phrase from Column B.

Column A

1. Keiko has always loved animals. She's in veterinary school now. She should ____.
2. Most apple trees bear fruit about five years after planting. Our apple tree is four years old. It should ____ next year.
3. Aunt Ella's plane arrived an hour ago. She's taking a taxi, so she should ____.
4. We could invest this money in a conservative stock fund. If we do that, we should ____ at the end of a year.
5. Ali should _____. He's been studying hard for it all semester.
6. The little horse is growing very fast. He should ____ in a year.
7. Bake the fish in the oven at 350 degrees. It should ____ in about ten minutes.
8. Take this medicine every morning. You should ____ in about two weeks.
9. Luis is taking a heavy course load. He wants to finish school quickly. He should ____.
10. The mechanic is fixing the car now. It should _____.

Column B

- a. be here just in time for dinner
- b. do very well on the final exam
- c. feel better
- d. double his weight
- e. make a great veterinarian
- f. have about 5 percent more
- g. be fixed before five o'clock
- h. graduate next June
- i. be moist and tender
- j. give us some apples

► **Practice 9. Degrees of certainty: future time.** (Charts 4-2, 10-1, and 10-4)

Circle the correct word.

1. Today is Monday. Tomorrow (*should* / *will*) be Tuesday.
2. Hello, Jack. This is Arturo in the tech department. I'm working on your computer now. Good news — I can fix it pretty easily and it (*should* / *must*) be ready by 5:00 P.M. today.
3. My son's birthday is next month. He (*should* / *will*) be two years old.
4. It's ten minutes to four. The next bus (*must* / *should*) arrive at four o'clock. The buses usually stop here every hour on the hour.
5. A: Don't be late! They won't let you into the theater after the play begins.
B: OK. I (*will* / *should*) be at the theater at 7:15. I promise.
6. Your husband is resting comfortably, Ms. Robbins. I'm giving him some antibiotics, so the infection (*must* / *should*) be cleared up by next week.
7. A: Look up there. Is that Mars?
B: I don't think so. Mars isn't visible right now. It (*should* / *must*) be Venus. Venus is visible now.
8. A: Who's going to win the tennis tournament?
B: Well, the Australian is highly rated, and she (*must* / *should*) win, but the Serbian is good too. Maybe she'll surprise us and win.

► **Practice 10. Progressive forms of modals.** (Chart 10-5)

Complete the sentences. Use the appropriate progressive forms of **must**, **should**, or **may / might / could** and a verb from the list. You may use a verb more than once.

date

fly

hike

kid

sleep

work

1. A: Call Phil. He's at his office now.
B: Let's email him instead. He _____ on something important at the moment. Or maybe he's with a client.
2. A: When will Betty be back from Italy?
B: Tonight. She _____ over the Atlantic at this very moment.
3. A: Helga must know the answer to this problem. Shall we call her?
B: Not now. It's 11:00 P.M. She _____.
4. A: Listen, I just heard this. Mr. Milner isn't going to be our teacher anymore. He has joined the navy.
B: You _____! That can't be true. Who told you that?
5. A: Sara told me that she had won the lottery, and so she invited us all to dinner at Henri's French restaurant.
B: Oh, she _____ when she said that. She never plays the lottery!
6. A: What do you think Ann's doing now on her vacation?
B: Oh, she _____ in the mountains. Or maybe she's relaxing at the pool.
7. A: I was hoping to go out with John, but I heard he's dating Julia.
B: Well, he (not) _____ Julia anymore. I think that they may have broken up.

► **Practice 11. Modals and modal phrases.** (Charts 10-1 → 10-5)

Circle the letter of the correct completion.

1. A: Where's Angie? Didn't she come back after lunch?
B: I'm not sure where she is. But she ____ the presentation that Human Resources is giving right now.
a. is attending b. could attend c. could be attending
2. A: You're taking Spanish at 8:00 A.M. every day? Why did you choose such an early class?
B: Because Ms. Cardenas is the teacher. She ____ excellent. I've been in the class for a month now, and I don't mind the early hour.
a. should be b. must be c. is
3. A: The meteorologists predicted five major hurricanes for this hurricane season.
B: They ____ wrong, you know. Sometimes they make mistakes.
a. must be b. might be c. are
4. A: Is this chicken in the refrigerator still good?
B: I don't think so. It's been in there for over a month! It ____ spoiled by now.
a. may be b. must be c. could be
5. A: Can you tell me if Flight 86 is on time?
B: It is on time, sir. It ____ at Gate B21 in about five minutes.
a. might arrive b. might be arriving c. should be arriving
6. A: Did you know that Mike got a scholarship to State School of Engineering?
B: Yes, I know that! I was the first one he told about it. He ____ very happy.
a. might be b. must be c. is
7. A: Did you know that Li received a scholarship to the City School of Music?
B: No, I didn't. That's great news! He ____ very happy.
a. might be b. must be c. is
8. A: Who's going to win the election?
B: It's a close call. The senator ____ with all his experience, but the opposition candidate is stronger than anyone expected.
a. must win b. must be winning c. should win
9. A: Where's Harold? He's supposed to be at this meeting. Didn't Jim tell him about it?
B: Jim ____ to tell him.
a. must forget b. must have forgotten c. should have forgotten
10. A: This soup has an interesting flavor, but there's too much salt in it.
B: Yes, it is too salty. I ____ so much salt in it.
a. must not have put b. shouldn't have put c. may not have put

► **Practice 12. Review of modals.** (Charts 10-1 → 10-5)

Write modal sentences for the situations.

1. The plane is late, and we didn't call the airport.

- a. I expect it will arrive soon. It should arrive soon.
- b. Maybe it took off late. It may / might / could have taken off late.
- c. It was a good idea to call the airport, but we didn't. We should have called the airport.

2. There's a package in the mail.

- a. Maybe it's for me. _____
- b. I'm sure it's for me. _____
- c. It's impossible that it's for me. _____

3. Tom didn't respond to my email.

- a. I expected him to respond. _____
- b. Maybe he didn't get it. _____
- c. I'm pretty sure he didn't get it. _____
- d. His email isn't working. It was impossible for him to get it. _____

4. There's water all over the kitchen floor.

- a. Perhaps the dishwasher is leaking. _____
- b. The dishwasher is new. It's impossible that it's the dishwasher. _____
- c. I'm pretty sure a pipe is broken. _____
- d. It's a good idea for you to call a plumber. _____
- e. It isn't necessary for us to call a plumber. _____

PRACTICE 4, p. 97

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. a
6. b

PRACTICE 5, p. 98

1. must not have remembered
2. couldn't have been
3. may / might not have left
4. must not have heard
5. may / might not have had
6. couldn't have happened

PRACTICE 6, p. 98

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. must have driven | 5. must have left |
| 2. must have been / must be | 6. must have gone |
| 3. must not have known | 7. must need |
| 4. must be | 8. must have hurt |

PRACTICE 7, p. 99

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. a

PRACTICE 8, p. 100

1. e
2. j
3. a
4. f
5. b
6. d
7. i
8. c
9. h
10. g

PRACTICE 9, page 100

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. will | 5. will |
| 2. should | 6. should |
| 3. will | 7. must |
| 4. should | 8. should |

PRACTICE 10, p. 101

Answers may vary.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. could be working | 5. must have been kidding |
| 2. should be flying | 6. might be hiking |
| 3. might be sleeping | 7. may not be dating |
| 4. must be kidding | |

PRACTICE 11, p. 102

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. c
7. b
8. c
9. b
10. b

PRACTICE 12, p. 103

Answers may vary.

1. a. It should arrive soon.
b. It may / might / could have taken off late.
c. We should have called the airport.
2. a. It may be for me.
b. It's for me.
c. It can't be for me.
3. a. He should have responded.
b. He may not have gotten it.
c. He must not have gotten it.
d. He couldn't have gotten it.
4. a. The dishwasher may / might / could be leaking.
b. It can't be the dishwasher.
c. A pipe must be broken.
d. You should call a plumber.
e. You don't have to call a plumber.