

B2

MODALS

≈ 27 MIN

Modals of Past Deduction – *practice on paper*

You can evaluate past evidence; now reinforce certain and possible conclusions with fresh incidents.

Use **must have / might have / can't have** plus a participle for past conclusions; **should have** marks expectation, not deduction.

NAME

DATE

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING

2 · FILL-IN

3 · CORRECT

4 · WRITE

BRICK 1 · SORT BY EVIDENCE · APPROX. 4 MIN

● ○ ○

Sort each clue. On the left, the event **certainly happened**. On the right, it **certainly did not happen**.

Badge log shows entry at 08:04

Security tape remains untouched

Camera shows Leo at reception

Sunday access log is empty

Server records a completed backup

Original envelope is still sealed

Minutes include Aisha's comments

Card payment is marked declined

Warehouse scan confirms collection

Desk phone stayed disconnected

MUST HAVE: CERTAINLY HAPPENED

CAN'T HAVE: CERTAINLY DID NOT HAPPEN

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE THE DEDUCTION · APPROX. 6 MIN

● ● ○

Add **must have, might/may/could have, or can't have**. Check the strength of the clue.

- 01 The seal is intact; Mia _____ opened the box.
- 02 Her initials appear on page six; she _____ reviewed it.
- 03 No log confirms it; they _____ used a guest account.
- 04 The checksum matches; the file _____ changed.
- 05 Two routes were open; the driver _____ taken either.
- 06 Her notes quote the client; she _____ joined remotely.
- 07 We lack timestamps; the team _____ finished overnight.
- 08 The parcel remains here; Lee _____ collected it.

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING

2 · FILL-IN

3 · CORRECT

4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN



Each sentence contains one modal, have, or participle error. Underline it and rewrite the sentence correctly.

01 The driver must has taken the northern route.

.....

02 Kai can't has approved the transfer.

.....

03 The alert might have went to spam.

.....

04 The key is here; Omar mustn't have taken it.

.....

05 They may have use the backup code.

.....

06 He could have miss the reminder.

.....

BRICK 4 · WRITE A SHORT INCIDENT ANALYSIS · APPROX. 8 MIN



Write one English conclusion for each clue. Match the **modal** to the evidence.

01 Certain positive: a scan confirms parcel collection.

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02 Possible: an outage has no timestamps.

.....

03 Certain negative: a door remained sealed.

.....

04 Two conclusions: link an impossibility to a certain cause.

.....

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I form past deductions with modal + have + participle.
- ☐ I use must have only with strong positive evidence.
- ☐ I use can't have when a clue rules something out.
- ☐ For open possibilities, I choose might, may, or could have.

Unsure? Label each sentence certain, possible, or ruled out.



Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 must have: Badge log shows entry at 08:04
<i>Certainty rule: the log confirms entry.</i></p> <p>02 can't have: Security tape remains untouched
<i>Exclusion rule: untouched tape rules out opening.</i></p> <p>03 must have: Camera shows Leo at reception
<i>Certainty rule: the image confirms Leo's arrival.</i></p> <p>04 can't have: Sunday access log is empty
<i>Exclusion rule: the empty log rules out login.</i></p> <p>05 must have: Server records a completed backup
<i>Certainty rule: the server confirms completion.</i></p> | <p>06 can't have: Original envelope is still sealed
<i>Exclusion rule: the seal rules out reading.</i></p> <p>07 must have: Minutes include Aisha's comments
<i>Certainty rule: the minutes confirm her attendance.</i></p> <p>08 can't have: Card payment is marked declined
<i>Exclusion rule: declined rules out payment success.</i></p> <p>09 must have: Warehouse scan confirms collection
<i>Certainty rule: the scan confirms collection.</i></p> <p>10 can't have: Desk phone stayed disconnected
<i>Exclusion rule: disconnection rules out a call.</i></p> |
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BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

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|---|---|
| <p>01 The seal is intact; Mia can't have opened the box.
<i>Exclusion rule: the intact seal rules out opening.</i></p> <p>02 Her initials appear on page six; she must have reviewed it.
<i>Certainty rule: the initials confirm the review.</i></p> <p>03 No log confirms it; they might have used a guest account.
<i>Possibility rule: the clue confirms no explanation.</i></p> <p>04 The checksum matches; the file can't have changed.
<i>Exclusion rule: the matching checksum rules out change.</i></p> | <p>05 Two routes were open; the driver may have taken either.
<i>Possibility rule: two routes remain open.</i></p> <p>06 Her notes quote the client; she must have joined remotely.
<i>Certainty rule: the notes confirm her attendance.</i></p> <p>07 We lack timestamps; the team could have finished overnight.
<i>Possibility rule: missing timestamps leave timing open.</i></p> <p>08 The parcel remains here; Lee can't have collected it.
<i>Exclusion rule: the remaining parcel rules out collection.</i></p> |
|---|---|

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>01 The driver must have taken the northern route.
<i>Form rule: must takes unchanged have.</i></p> <p>02 Kai can't have approved the transfer.
<i>Form rule: can't takes have, not has.</i></p> <p>03 The alert might have gone to spam.
<i>Participle rule: have takes gone.</i></p> | <p>04 The key is here; Omar can't have taken it.
<i>Deduction rule: can't have marks certain exclusion.</i></p> <p>05 They may have used the backup code.
<i>Participle rule: have takes used.</i></p> <p>06 He could have missed the reminder.
<i>Participle rule: have takes missed.</i></p> |
|---|---|

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Answers vary; always match certainty to the clue.

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|---|--|
| <p>01 The courier must have collected the parcel.
<i>Certainty rule: the scan confirms collection.</i></p> <p>02 The service might have failed during the night.
<i>Possibility rule: missing timestamps leave this open.</i></p> | <p>03 Nobody can have opened the sealed door.
<i>Exclusion rule: the seal rules out opening.</i></p> <p>04 Ravi can't have sent it; Jo must have used his account.
<i>Contrast rule: one clue rules out and supports the cause.</i></p> |
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NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE

Modals of Present Deduction

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/modals-deduction-present

PREREQUISITE

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englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

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CONTACT

+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com

