+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com · www.englisch-lehrer.com

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.

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

01 **must have**: Badge log shows entry at 08:04
Certainty rule: the log confirms entry.

02 **can't have**: Security tape remains untouched
Exclusion rule: untouched tape rules out opening.

03 **must have**: Camera shows Leo at reception
Certainty rule: the image confirms Leo's arrival.

04 **can't have**: Sunday access log is empty
Exclusion rule: the empty log rules out login.

05 **must have**: Server records a completed backup
Certainty rule: the server confirms completion.

06 **can't have**: Original envelope is still sealed
Exclusion rule: the seal rules out reading.

07 **must have**: Minutes include Aisha's comments
Certainty rule: the minutes confirm her attendance.

08 **can't have**: Card payment is marked declined
Exclusion rule: declined rules out payment success.

09 **must have**: Warehouse scan confirms collection
Certainty rule: the scan confirms collection.

10 **can't have**: Desk phone stayed disconnected
Exclusion rule: disconnection rules out a call.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 The seal is intact; Mia **can't have** opened the box.
Exclusion rule: the intact seal rules out opening.

02 Her initials appear on page six; she **must have** reviewed it.
Certainty rule: the initials confirm the review.

03 No log confirms it; they **might have** used a guest account.
Possibility rule: the clue confirms no explanation.

04 The checksum matches; the file **can't have** changed.
Exclusion rule: the matching checksum rules out change.

05 Two routes were open; the driver **may have** taken either.
Possibility rule: two routes remain open.

06 Her notes quote the client; she **must have** joined remotely.
Certainty rule: the notes confirm her attendance.

07 We lack timestamps; the team **could have** finished overnight.
Possibility rule: missing timestamps leave timing open.

08 The parcel remains here; Lee **can't have** collected it.
Exclusion rule: the remaining parcel rules out collection.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 The driver must **have** taken the northern route.
Form rule: must takes unchanged have.

02 Kai can't **have** approved the transfer.
Form rule: can't takes have, not has.

03 The alert might have **gone** to spam.
Participle rule: have takes gone.

04 The key is here; Omar **can't have** taken it.
Deduction rule: can't have marks certain exclusion.

05 They may have **used** the backup code.
Participle rule: have takes used.

06 He could have **missed** the reminder.
Participle rule: have takes missed.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Answers vary; always match certainty to the clue.

01 The courier **must have collected** the parcel.
Certainty rule: the scan confirms collection.

02 The service **might have failed** during the night.
Possibility rule: missing timestamps leave this open.

03 Nobody **can have opened** the sealed door.
Exclusion rule: the seal rules out opening.

04 Ravi **can't have sent** it; Jo **must have used** his account.
Contrast rule: one clue rules out and supports the cause.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

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englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

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englisch-lehrer.com/online
worldwide on Zoom

CONTACT
+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com