

MODAL PERFECTS (PAST DEDUCTION & SPECULATION)

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4. Complete the sentences with a suitable modal perfect

Use: must have / might have / can't have / should have

1. The roads are completely dry. It _____ rained last night.
2. I can't find my phone anywhere. I _____ left it in the café.
3. He looks so fit. He _____ been training hard for months.
4. You _____ checked the train times. Now we've missed it.
5. She _____ been at the party – she was in another city.
6. I'm not sure, but they _____ taken a different route.
7. The exam was really difficult. A lot of students _____ found it hard.
8. You _____ told me you were vegetarian. I cooked chicken for you.

5. Rewrite the sentences using a modal perfect

Example:

I'm sure she forgot about the meeting.

→ She must have forgotten about the meeting.

1. It's possible that they went to the wrong restaurant.
   → _____
2. I'm certain he didn't hear the alarm.
   → _____
3. It was a bad idea that you didn't take a taxi.
   → _____
4. There's no way she finished the report so quickly.
   → _____
5. Perhaps the children broke the window.
   → _____
6. I'm sure they didn't know about the change of plan.
   → _____

6. Choose the best modal perfect for each situation

Situation: You see your friend looking very happy and holding a new phone.

1. He _____ (buy) a new phone.
2. He _____ (receive) it as a present.
3. He _____ (steal) it – he's a very honest person.

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Answer Key

4. Complete the sentences (acceptable alternatives in brackets)

1. can’t have
2. must have / might have
3. must have
4. should have
5. can’t have
6. might have
7. must have
8. should have

5. Rewrite (model answers)

1. They might / may / could have gone to the wrong restaurant.
2. He can’t / couldn’t have heard the alarm.
3. You should have taken a taxi.
4. She can’t / couldn’t have finished the report so quickly.
5. The children might / may / could have broken the window.
6. They can’t / couldn’t have known about the change of plan.
   (or: They must have not known… – less common)

6. Choose the best

1. must have bought
2. might have received
3. can’t have stolen

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