



# 2<sup>nd</sup> semester



# Topic 6: Modals in the past



## Modals in Past : Modal + have + past participle

Modal	Concept	Example
Would have	Past unreal action	I would have bought the car, but I didn't have money
Could have	Past unreal Ability	She could have taken the flight
May have	Past unreal Possibility	We may have passed the test, but it was in French
Might have	Past Unreal Small Probability	You might have sold the house, if you really needed the money
Should have	Past unreal Recommendation	You should have listened to the doctor
Must have	Past unreal Assumption	We must have been crazy!

The following sentences are about an escaped criminal. Rewrite them using a modal from the above table, as in the example:



Example: It is almost certain that he left before breakfast.  
He must have left before breakfast.

1. It is highly unlikely that he carried the gold by himself.
2. It seems quite likely that he had an accomplice.
3. He has almost certainly been spotted by the police by now.
4. It is possible but unlikely that he headed towards London.
5. It's quite possible that he gave himself up.
6. It is almost certain that he realised how serious it was.
7. It is highly unlikely that he thought things through clearly.
8. Possibly he escaped by boat.
9. It's quite likely that he made contact with his friends.
10. It is possible but unlikely that he committed suicide.



**Rewrite the following sentences keeping the same meaning:**

1. It's possible that the teacher saw me. =The teacher \_\_\_\_\_
2. It wasn't a good idea for you to tell her that story. =You \_\_\_\_\_
3. I think it was not a good idea to buy that car.= You \_\_\_\_\_
4. It's possible that I left my English book at home because it is not here.  
= I \_\_\_\_\_
5. Maybe she didn't mean what she said about you. = She \_\_\_\_\_
6. I'm almost sure that your classmate took your jacket by mistake.  
= He \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose the correct alternative:**

1. We **shouldn't / mustn't** have parked our car here. Now we don't know where it is.
2. My sister **might not/ mustn't** have liked her vacations. The hotel was so crowded and the food was too spicy.
3. He **must/ could** have learned Portuguese when he was a child. He speaks it so fluently.
4. Considering that Daniel had never cheated on an exam before. He **shouldn't/ may not** have been expelled.
5. I am so happy you did very well on the exam. You **must / should** have studied a lot.

**Complete each sentence with the appropriate modal and the verb in parentheses.**

1. We hadn't planned we were going to have 5 children. We \_\_\_\_\_ a bigger house.  
(buy)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ Medicine. I \_\_\_\_\_ really good at it.  
(study) (be)
3. Jack lost his wallet on the way to work. He \_\_\_\_\_ it on the bus.  
(lose)
4. I have no idea why she married him. He \_\_\_\_\_ the only man available.  
(be)
5. Camila has won every game she's played today. She \_\_\_\_\_ a lot.  
(practice)
6. You \_\_\_\_\_ your dog. He has been hungry all day.  
(feed)