

Modal Perfect

should have, must have, could have...

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

modal + have + past participle = deduction or regret about the past.

1 Choose the modal perfect

EASY

Pick the best modal perfect for the meaning.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. He's not here. He ____ left. (certainty) | 2. She ____ warned us. (regret/criticism) |
| 3. They ____ taken a shortcut. (possibility) | 4. It ____ been him: he was abroad. (impossibility) |
| 5. You ____ called: I was worried. | 6. She ____ passed: she studied all night. |
| 7. They ____ won but they gave up. | 8. He ____ arrived yet: he just left. |
| 9. I ____ helped you if you'd asked. | 10. She ____ lost the key: she's looking. |

2 needn't have vs didn't need to

MEDIUM

Choose the correct form.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I brought an umbrella but it didn't rain. I ____ it. | 2. She knew the café was free so she ____ money. |
| 3. He ____ dressed up: it was a casual event. | 4. We ____ hurry: the train was delayed. |
| 5. They ____ bring food: we had plenty. | 6. She checked the map but ____ to: she knew the way. |
| 7. He ____ stayed: the meeting was cancelled. | 8. I knew she'd be late, so I ____ rush. |
| 9. They ____ worried: everything was fine. | 10. She ____ told him: he already knew. |

3 Deduction and possibility

HARD

Choose: must have / can't have / might have.

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|--|---|
| 1. No one answered. They ____ gone out. | 2. She got 100%. She ____ studied hard! |
| 3. His car is here. He ____ left already. | 4. The window is broken. Someone ____ thrown something. |
| 5. She's smiling. She ____ got good news. | 6. It ____ been Mark: he was on holiday. |
| 7. The cake is gone. The children ____ eaten it. | 8. He looks pale. He ____ slept well. |
| 9. The shop is dark. It ____ closed early. | 10. She ____ heard about it: she's acting normally. |

4

Full modal perfect practice

HARD

Write the correct modal perfect form.

1. He was late. He ____ missed the bus.

3. They ____ taken the wrong road. (possibility)

5. I ____ helped but I didn't know.

7. She ____ come: the door was open.

9. You ____ worried: it was nothing serious.

2. You ____ told me sooner! (regret/criticism)

4. She ____ done it: she was with me all day.

6. He looks exhausted. He ____ worked all night.

8. We ____ booked earlier: it's full.

10. They ____ prepared better for the exam.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Modal perfect choice

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 must have | 6 must have |
| 2 should have | 7 could have |
| 3 might have / could have | 8 can't have |
| 4 can't have | 9 could have |
| 5 should have | 10 must have |

2 Exercise 2 needn't have vs didn't need to

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 needn't have brought | 6 didn't need to check |
| 2 didn't need to bring | 7 needn't have stayed |
| 3 needn't have dressed up | 8 didn't need to rush |
| 4 didn't need to hurry | 9 needn't have worried |
| 5 needn't have brought | 10 needn't have told |

3 Exercise 3 Deduction modals

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 might have / could have | 6 can't have |
| 2 must have | 7 must have |
| 3 can't have | 8 can't have |
| 4 must have | 9 must have |
| 5 must have | 10 can't have |

4 Exercise 4 Written modal perfects

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 must have missed | 6 must have worked |
| 2 should have told | 7 could have come |
| 3 might have / could have taken | 8 should have booked |
| 4 can't have done it | 9 needn't have worried |
| 5 could have helped | 10 should have prepared |