

1 Use the information and the prompts to write sentences with past modals.

1 He met the Queen. He didn't bow.

He / should / bow / when he met the Queen.

2 We sent an invitation. They didn't come to our party.

They / must / lose / the invitation.

3 Harry's friend Jim didn't answer his phone last night.

Jim / might / go / out.

4 I'm annoyed with you because you didn't reply to my email.

You / might / reply / to my email!

5 I sent a letter to my sister last week.

She / should / receive / the letter / by now.

6 People should cover their shoulders when they visit this temple, but John didn't.

John / supposed / cover / his shoulders when he visited this temple.

7 Amy is crying. Perhaps she had an argument with her friend last night?

Amy / could / have an argument with her friend last night.

8 Julie gave Rick a present yesterday. He didn't say thank you.

Rick / ought to / say thank you / for the present.

2 Complete the dialogues with *should have*, *shouldn't have*, *must have*, *might have* or *can't have* and the verb in brackets.

1 A Hi. Sorry I'm late. I _____ (take) the bus. The traffic was awful and it was really slow.

B Yes, you are late! You _____ (come) on your bike. Then you _____ (arrive) on time!

2 A Do you know where Bob is?

B He was here earlier, but I can't see him now. I don't know, he _____ (go) home early.

A No, he _____ (leave) yet because his bike's still outside.

3 A How was your weekend?

B It was a disaster! I went to Abi's party on Saturday. When I got there everyone was wearing smart clothes and I came in jeans and a T-shirt. They _____ (think) that I was really strange.

A That's embarrassing. She _____ (tell) you that it was a formal party.

B I know. And I _____ (bring) a present for Abi's mum. It was her birthday, but I didn't know!

A Oh dear!

3 SPEAKING Read about the situations below and complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then compare your ideas in pairs.

Yesterday you went to your friend's party. Today your friend isn't speaking to you.

I must have _____ .

I might have _____ .

Your teacher always starts the lesson with a vocabulary test. Today she didn't.

She must have _____ .

She can't have _____ .

Your brother isn't answering his phone.

He must have _____ .

He might have _____ .

Your friend feels very embarrassed this morning.

He should have _____ .

He might have _____ .

3D Modals in the past

Aims: To review and practise past modal verbs.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and ask them to read the first sentence in each pair carefully before they use the prompts to write their second sentences. It is important that they understand the first sentences, so be prepared to answer any questions about vocabulary if necessary.
- Check answers by asking different students to read out their completed second sentences.

KEY

- 1 He should have bowed when he met the Queen.
- 2 They must have lost the invitation.
- 3 Jim might have gone out.
- 4 You might have replied to my email!
- 5 She should have received the letter by now.
- 6 John was supposed to have covered his shoulders when he visited this temple.
- 7 Amy could have had an argument with her friend last night.
- 8 Rick ought to have said thank you for the present.

Exercise 2

- Students read the dialogues quickly and then complete them with the correct past modal form.
- Ask different pairs of students to read out their completed dialogues. Encourage them to use a range of intonation and expressions to make the dialogues sound realistic.

KEY

- 1 shouldn't have taken, should have come, might have arrived
- 2 might have gone, can't have left
- 3 must have thought, should have told, should have brought

Exercise 3

- Students work individually to complete the sentences with their own ideas. You could go through the first couple of sentences with the class, asking for different suggestions about how to complete them. Encourage them to think of original or unusual answers. They then compare their sentences in pairs.
- Check answers by asking different students to read out their sentences.