

Advanced Modal Verbs – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 40



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online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Modal perfects in context

Complete each sentence with a modal perfect (modal + have + past participle) using the verb in brackets. Use the context to choose the right modal.

Example: The ground is wet. It ___ (rain) in the night – I'm sure. → must have rained

1. Tom's car isn't outside. He _____ (leave) already – I'm sure of it.
2. Anna _____ (take) the 8:15 train – it was cancelled this morning.
3. I'm not sure why Leo is late. He _____ (miss) the bus, I suppose.
4. You _____ (tell) me the meeting had been moved! I waited for an hour.
5. We took a taxi to the station, but we _____ (hurry): the train was delayed by an hour.
6. Why did you cross the road without looking? You _____ (be) killed!
7. They left at six, so they _____ (arrive) by now – unless the traffic is bad.
8. I'd rather you _____ (not / smoke) in here.

Exercise 2: Modal expressions

Complete each sentence with one word from the box. There are two extra words you do not need.

Example: You ___ to have told me earlier. → ought

WORD BOX

bound supposed as well dare rather better shall ought would

9. Don't worry about the exam – with all your preparation, you're _____ to pass.
10. We're _____ to hand in the report by Friday, but most people are late.
11. The bus isn't coming for another hour. We might _____ well walk.
12. The rumours may _____ be true – several reliable sources have confirmed them.
13. How _____ you read my private messages!
14. I'd _____ stay in tonight, if you don't mind.
15. You'd _____ take an umbrella – it's going to pour.
16. _____ I open the window? It's very stuffy in here.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence so that it has a similar meaning, using the word in capitals.

Example: Perhaps she was at home. (MIGHT) → She might have been at home.

17. I'm sure she forgot about our appointment. (MUST)

18. It's impossible that he wrote this essay himself. (CAN'T)

19. It was a mistake for us to sell the house. (SHOULDN'T)

20. It wasn't necessary for you to bring a present, but thank you. (NEEDN'T)

21. Perhaps they didn't receive our email. (MAY)

22. It's very likely that prices will rise again next year. (BOUND)

23. I would prefer you to call me before you visit. (RATHER)

24. People say the bridge was built in the 12th century. (SUPPOSED)

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the corrected sentence.

Example: He should have call me. → He should have called me.

25. She must have forget her keys again.

26. You needn't to worry about the cost.

27. He can't have saw the message; his phone was off.

28. We had better to leave now or we'll miss the start.

29. I'd rather you don't tell anyone about this.

30. They should have arrive by now.

31. Did you must wear a uniform at your old school?

32. You mustn't pay now; you can pay at the end.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

Example: have / might / she / lost / it → She might have lost it.

33. have / must / they / been / waiting / for / hours

34. I / have / should / told / you / earlier / ?

35. can't / she / meant / have / it / seriously

36. might / well / as / we / home / go

37. could / where / have / gone / they / ?

38. needn't / you / have / waited / me / for

39. would / you / rather / we / stayed / ?

40. is / bound / there / to / be / a / delay

Answer key – Advanced Modal Verbs – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Modal perfects in context

1. **must have left**

'Must have' expresses a confident deduction about the past.

2. **can't have taken**

The reviewer's answer 'can't have taken' is already accepted, because 'can't/couldn't have' expresses certainty that something in the past was impossible.

3. **might have missed**

The reviewer's answer 'might have missed' is already accepted, because 'might/may/could have' expresses a possibility about the past.

4. **should have told**

The reviewer's answer 'should have told' is already accepted, and the missing contraction 'might've told' has been added because 'should/could/might have' all criticise a past action that didn't happen.

5. **needn't have hurried**

'Needn't have' means we did something that turned out to be unnecessary.

6. **could have been**

The original prompt began with the general instruction 'Never cross...', so 'could be killed' also fitted; the new past-tense question makes it clear that the sentence is about a past danger that did not happen.

7. **should have arrived**

'Should have' expresses what we expect to have happened.

8. **didn't smoke**

The reviewer's answer 'didn't smoke' is already accepted, because 'would rather + subject' is followed by the past simple to refer to the present.

Exercise 2: Modal expressions

9. **bound**

'Be bound to' means something is certain to happen.

10. **supposed**

'Be supposed to' describes an expectation or rule that is often not followed.

11. **as**

'Might as well' means there is no better alternative.

12. **well**

'May well' means something is quite likely.

13. **dare**

'How dare you' expresses anger or indignation.

14. **rather**

'Would rather + base form' expresses a preference.

15. **better**

'Had better' gives strong advice about a specific situation.

16. **Shall**

'Shall I...?' is used to make an offer.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

17. **She must have forgotten about our appointment.**

A confident deduction about the past uses 'must have + past participle'.

18. **He can't have written this essay himself.**

'Can't have + past participle' shows a past action was impossible.

19. **We shouldn't have sold the house.**

'Shouldn't have' expresses regret about a past action.

20. **You needn't have brought a present, but thank you.**

'Needn't have' is used for an unnecessary action that was done.

21. **They may not have received our email.**

The negative of 'may have' is 'may not have + past participle'.

22. **Prices are bound to rise again next year.**

'Be bound to + base form' expresses strong certainty about the future.

23. **I'd rather you called me before you visited.**

The reviewer's answer is already accepted, and variants with the optional 'that' have been added, since 'would rather (that) + subject' takes the past simple.

24. **The bridge is supposed to have been built in the 12th century.**

'Be supposed to have been + past participle' reports what people believe about the past.

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

25. She must have forgotten her keys again.

After 'have' we need the past participle 'forgotten'.

26. You needn't worry about the cost.

The modal 'needn't' is followed by the base form without 'to'.

27. He can't have seen the message; his phone was off.

The past participle of 'see' is 'seen'.

28. We had better leave now or we'll miss the start.

'Had better' is followed by the base form without 'to'.

29. I'd rather you didn't tell anyone about this.

After 'would rather + subject' we use the past simple, even for the present.

30. They should have arrived by now.

A modal perfect needs the past participle 'arrived'.

31. Did you have to wear a uniform at your old school?

'Must' has no past form, so we use 'have to' for past obligation.

32. You don't have to pay now; you can pay at the end.

The reviewer's answer is already accepted, and full forms have been added, because 'don't have to', 'needn't' and 'don't need to' express a lack of obligation, whereas 'mustn't' expresses prohibition.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

33. They must have been waiting for hours.

'Must have been + -ing' is a deduction about an ongoing past activity.

34. Should I have told you earlier?

In questions, the modal comes before the subject: modal + subject + have + past participle.

35. She can't have meant it seriously.

'Can't have + past participle' expresses past impossibility.

36. We might as well go home.

'Might as well + base form' means there is no reason not to do something.

37. Where could they have gone?

A question word comes first, then modal + subject + have + past participle.

38. You needn't have waited for me.

'Needn't have' shows that the waiting was unnecessary.

39. Would you rather we stayed?

In questions, 'would' comes before the subject; 'rather + subject' is followed by the past simple.

40. There is bound to be a delay.

'There is bound to be' means something is certain to happen.

Notes for teachers: Start with Exercise 1 to check the form modal + have + past participle, then ask learners to say what each modal means (certainty, possibility, criticism, unnecessary action). Typical mistakes are using the base form after 'have' (must have forget), adding 'to' after needn't or had better, and using a present verb after 'would rather + subject'. Also make sure learners understand the difference between mustn't and don't have to. As a follow-up, show learners a photo of a mysterious scene and ask them to speculate about what happened using must have, might have and can't have.