

MODALS - Advice & Suggestions

I. ADVISABILITY - asking for & giving *definite* advise about an action or situation that has NOT YET happened

SHOULD + MAIN VERB (base form)

Should I go to the movies tonight?

No, you *should* stay home and do your English homework.

II. SUGGESTIONS & POSSIBILITIES - offering suggestions & possibilities about an action or situation that has NOT YET occurred.

COULD + MAIN VERB (base form)

MIGHT + MAIN VERB (base form)

-I'm having trouble in English class.

You *might* ask your classmate for help.

You *could* ask your teacher for help.

PERFECT MODALS

I. ADVISABILITY - asking for & giving advise about an action or situation that has ALREADY occurred which creates a sense of regret or blame.

SHOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

OUGHT TO HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

****MIGHT HAVE*** + PAST PARTICIPLE

****COULD HAVE*** + PAST PARTICIPLE

I *ought to have* applied to college.

(*I didn't apply & I regret not doing so*)

She *should've* taken the job.

(*She didn't take it & now she regrets not doing so*)

He *shouldn't have* talked to me that way.

(*He talked to me that way, but it was wrong of him*)

You *might've* let me know about the party sooner.

(*You didn't let me know & that was impolite*)

They *could've* called to tell me they'd be late.

(*They didn't call & that was impolite*)

****MIGHT HAVE & COULD HAVE*** are also used to express possibilities & speculations about PAST situations

II. DEGREES OF CERTAINTY - making assumptions or conclusions about PAST actions or situations

A. ***MUST HAVE*** + **PAST PARTICIPLE**

- used to make a **LOGICAL** conclusion / deduction based on observation
- the speaker is **ALMOST (95%)** sure that the action or situation occurred.

Martin was absent last week. He *must have been* sick.

Many trees have been uprooted. There *must have been* a storm last night.

B. ***COULD HAVE*** + **PAST PARTICIPLE** ***MAY HAVE*** + **PAST PARTICIPLE** ***MIGHT HAVE*** + **PAST PARTICIPLE**

- used to speculate or express a possibility about a past situation
- the speaker is **not certain (less than 50%)** whether the action or situation occurred

Tom moved the piano by himself. He *could've broken* his back.

Sally went ice skating on the lake. She *might've fallen* through the ice.

Mark looks very angry. He *may have had* an argument with his girlfriend.

C. ***COULDN'T HAVE*** + **PAST PARTICIPLE**

- used to express an impossibility about a past situation
- the speaker is **100% certain** the action or situation did **NOT** occur

Mark *couldn't have been* at your birthday last weekend. He went camping on Mt. Charleston.

Julie *couldn't have spoken* to you last night. She's dead.

We *couldn't have committed* the crime. We were out of town that day.