

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

MODALS of PROBABILITY (past)

- Find the matching sentences below – Be careful: 5 circles don't match!

I			been at work.
You	must		watched TV.
He	might		taken the money.
She	could	have	done the work.
It	may		gone to bed.
We	can't		eaten the cookies.
They			seen a ghost.

- **must have** = 95% sure something was possible
- **might have** = maybe
- **could have** = maybe
- **may have** = maybe
- **can't have** = 95% sure something was NOT possible

1. I saw my friend run quickly to school.

2. Hey! All the chocolates are gone!

3. I think Steven drove to work today.

4. The police shot a man in the bank.

5. Where did Rob and Kim go on holiday?

6. Who broke the coffee cup yesterday?

They **might** have walked to work.

She **might** have been late.

John **must** have written it.

It **may** have begun already.

It **could** have been a ghost.

Sarah **may** have dropped it.


He **must** have been a robber.

Tommy **might** have eaten them.

He **can't** have been very happy.

No, he **can't** have driven!

They **could** have flown to Poland.



Language Focus Modals of Probability (also called 'Modals of Speculation')
for talking about the past

Level Intermediate

ANSWER KEY

My Notes



1. I saw my friend run quickly to school.
She must have been late.
2. All the chocolates are gone!
Tommy might have eaten them.
3. I think Steven drove to work today.
No, he can't have driven!
4. The police shot a man in the bank.
He must have been a robber.
5. Where did Rob and Kim go on holiday?
They could have flown to Poland.
6. Who broke the coffee cup yesterday?
Sarah may have dropped it.

NOTE: We use 'been' with ...

- 1) **Nouns** Example: "It **must have been** a spider."
- 2) **Verbs + 'ing'** Example: "She **might have been** sleeping."
- 3) **Adjectives** Example: "He **could have been** bored."
- 4) **Prepositions** Example: "It **can't have been** in the kitchen."

Here are some examples of modals of probability WITHOUT 'been' ...

- "She **must have** studied in the morning."
- "They **can't have** sleep well last night."
- "He **might have** bought a new car."

Notice that each modal + have is followed by a past participle verb.