

ACTIVITY 1 - IT'S A MYSTERY

To avoid you preparing this activity in advance, I have purposefully omitted it so you will just have to wait until your class begins to find out what is in store!

ACTIVITY 2 - GRAMMAR POINT *Modals - Past events & deduction*

Must, might, may, could and can't are also used to talk about past probability and possibility, and to make guesses and deductions about things that happened in the past. For example, after a shopping trip you go to the train station to return home. You can't find your wallet.



Past certainty

I **must have left** it in the last shop. I don't remember putting it in my pocket.
(This means you are **certain** about something **that happened** in the past)

I **can't have left** it in the last shop. I remember putting it in my pocket.
(This means you are **certain** about something **that DIDN'T happen** in the past)

Past possibility / probability

Someone **might have stolen** it. Somebody **may have taken** it. I **could have dropped** it.

Grammar note:

When modals are used to talk about past events, the modal is followed by **the perfect infinitive**, without 'to'.

The perfect infinitive is made with **'have' + the past participle** of the main verb. Here are some examples of modal verbs followed by perfect infinitives:

must have left	may have taken
might have stolen	could have dropped

Remember, if you don't use a modal, then you are giving a fact, for example: I left it in the shop.

Be careful: Modal verbs often have other different meanings. For example, 'could' can be used to show ability as well as possibility. Use the context to help you understand which meaning is being used. 'Can' is NOT normally used to talk about the past: use 'could'. More examples of each:

must + perfect infinitive

We use must + perfect infinitive when we feel sure about something in the past.

- The thieves must have come in through the window. Look – it's still open.
- Oh no! Where's my car? Someone must have stolen it!

might/may/could + perfect infinitive

We use might, may or could with the perfect infinitive to say that we think something was possible but we aren't sure.

- The thieves might have escaped by car but we can't be sure.
- I can't find my purse. I could have left it in the supermarket but I just don't know.

can't + perfect infinitive

We use can't + perfect infinitive when we feel sure something didn't happen in the past.

- I thought I saw Tim in town this morning but it can't have been him – he's in Greece this week.
- I can't have left it in the supermarket – I had it on the bus on the way home.



ACTIVITY 3 – DEDUCTION GAP FILL

Fill the gaps with one of the following **modal verbs** and the correct **perfect infinitive**

can't could must might / may

1. I don't know why there weren't any buses yesterday, they _____ _____ _____ on strike but I am not sure.
2. You _____ _____ _____ her, she was standing right next to you!
3. We'll ask at reception, someone _____ _____ _____ your keys in.
4. He _____ _____ _____ to Russia, He doesn't have a passport.

ACTIVITY 4 – WORD ORDER RIDDLE RACE

In teams, rearrange the word order in the sentences given to you to make three riddles. You will then try to solve the riddles in a race against the other teams!



Make three deductions:

After reading Sentence 1 => "He/she/it might have been ....."
After reading Sentence 2 => "But he/she/it can't have been ....."
After reading Sentence 3 => "So he/she/it must have been ....."

ACTIVITY 5 - ROLE-PLAY

Your neighbour deduces that your partner / relative and his/her friend are guilty of a crime. They have come to see you first but are planning on going to the police. You listen to the story and immediately become very defensive and stick up for your loved one, blaming his/her friend for the crime! The person in question comes home and naturally joins in on his/her defence!

Act out the role-play using the new expressions to lay blame and/or defend the relevant parties.

ACTIVITY 6 - CLUEDO

Cluedo is a popular murder/mystery-themed deduction board game originally published by Waddingtons in Leeds, England in 1949. It was devised by a solicitor's clerk from Birmingham.

The object of the game is for players to strategically move around the game board (a mansion), in the guise of one of the game's six characters, collecting clues from which to deduce which suspect murdered the game's perpetual victim: Dr. Black, with which weapon and in what room.

Now let's play Cluedo!

There has been a murder at the mansion and you have to deduce 'whodunit' using clues you find around the mansion. Use the new language as you play. Some example sentences to help you:

It might have been Colonel Mustard, he could have killed the victim just after dinner.
It can't have been in the Miss Scarlet because she left a note.
It could have been Scarlet, just because she left a note, it doesn't mean she is not guilty.
The killer must have used the candlestick.
So, it must have been Mrs. White with the candlestick in the study!

ACTIVITY 7 - WHAT DID THE MUSICIANS SAY?

Add the correct modal verb to the following sentences to make either a song title or a part of the chorus. Then we will listen and sing along to the song of your choice!

Adele => We _____ have had it all (Rolling in the deep)
Red Hot Chilli Peppers => I _____ have lied
Reliant K => I _____ have done something right
Roxette => It _____ have been love