

PAST MODALS OF DEDUCTION

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Writing | 20-30 minutes

Complete questions, write detailed answers and form questions of your own.

EXAMPLE

Question: What **might** Jo **have forgotten**?

Answer: She **might have forgotten** the new time. She **can't have seen** the latest message.

Remember: Must/might/could/cannot + have + participle draw conclusions about earlier events.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Complete the questions using the grammar cues. Write full answers with a relevant detail.

1. An empty parcel box is here. Who might _____ it? (open)

Answer: _____

2. Jo has her ticket. What must she _____? (remember)

Answer: _____

3. A guest left before the talk. Why can't they _____ it there? (hear)

Answer: _____

4. You find wet footprints indoors. What could _____? (happen)

Answer: _____

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

Put the words in order. Write each question. Start with a capital letter and add ?.

1. the / moved / chair / have / might / who

2. arrived / already / they / must / have

3. sent / message / that / she / can't / have / why

Try it: Ask your partner the questions in B. Ask one follow-up of your own.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Target forms and model answers are shown below. Personal answers will vary.

1. have opened - An empty parcel box is here. Who might have opened it?

Sample answer: My neighbour might have opened it for me, but I'll ask before assuming that.

2. have remembered - Jo has her ticket. What must she have remembered?

Sample answer: She must have remembered to bring it, even though she was rushing.

3. have heard - A guest left before the talk. Why can't they have heard it there?

Sample answer: They can't have heard it there because they left before the speaker began.

4. have happened - You find wet footprints indoors. What could have happened?

Sample answer: Someone could have walked in from the rain, or spilled water nearby.

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1. Who might have moved the chair?

2. Must they have arrived already?

3. Why can't she have sent that message?

TEACHER NOTES

Ask for evidence in personal explanations. Strong deductions are not proof; alternatives may be possible.

Accept correct full forms and contractions. Check that answers match the question.

Encourage one relevant detail; check word order, capitals and question marks in B.