⮊ MODAL VERBS

*Introduction*

The modal verbs **MUST, MAY / MIGHT, CAN / COULD** may be used to express degrees of certainty:

|  |
| --- |
| **must** |
| **can’t / couldn’t** |
| **may / might / could** |
| **can / could …?** |

Modal verbs used in this way can be followed by the INFINITIVES in DIFFERENT FORMS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present Infinitive**  **Continuous Infinitive** | He must **be** happy.  He must **be** **talking** on the phone. |
| **Perfect Infinitive**  Perfect Continuous  **Infinitive** | Could he **have taken** the wrong way?  He can’t **have been walking** all the night. |

Ex. 45. Study the use of modal verbs.

*Agatha Christie’s famous character Miss Marple is at a dinner party listening to the tale of crime told by a friend*. *The guests try to solve the mystery of Dr*. *Lloyd’s story*. *Who* ***could*** *have thought that a middle*-*aged English lady was capable of killing her companion*?

“Why did Mary Barton kill her companion Miss Durrant?”

“Oh, well,” said Miss Helier, “she **might** have killed her for lots of reasons. I mean – oh, I don’t know. She **might** have got on her nerves, or else she got jealous.”

“I think that Miss Barton had a young brother who shot himself for love of Amy Durrant,” said Mrs Bantry. “She engaged Amy Durrant as companion and accomplished her revenge. How’s that?”

“Excellent,” said Sir Henry. “Only we don’t know that Miss Barton ever had a young brother!”

“We deduce that,” said Mrs Bantry. “Unless she had a young brother there’s no motive. So she **must** have had a young brother!”

Jane Helier interrupted with a little scream.

“Oh! I’ve been very stupid. May I guess again? Of course it **must** have been blackmail! The companion woman **must** have been blackmailing Miss Barton. Now, do say you agree with me, Miss Marple!”

“I’m afraid, I don’t, Miss Helier!” said Miss Marple smiling apologetically. “Why should the rich employer kill the humble companion? It’s so much more likely to be the other way about. It **must** have been Amy Durrant who killed Miss Barton and assumed the late woman’s identity. There was nothing remarkable in either of them, and so she **must** have had no difficulty in passing herself off as Mary Barton. The whole thing **must** have hung upon one old woman being so much like any other old woman.”

I. Modal Verbs: Deduction and Possibility

**DEDUCTION: must** *versus* **can’t (couldn’t)**

You can make deductions, i.e. logical conclusions based on evidence. You use “**must”** in affirmative sentences and **can’t** / **couldn’t** in negative sentences to say that you are almost sure about something.

*Evidence*: Today is Sunday.

*Deduction*: She **must** be at home. She **can’t** have gone to school.

#### POSSIBILITY: may / might / could

You use **may** / **might** / **could** to say that you are not certain that something is possible, but you think it is.

He **might** have come home. (*The speaker thinks so*, *but is not sure because there are other possibilities*: he **might** be still at work or on the way home.)

PRESENT time

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Meaning** | **Affirmative** | **Negative** |
| sure | **deduction**  (95% sure) | He **must** be happy. | He **can’t** be happy now. |
|  |  |  |
| **possibility**  (50% sure) | He **may**  **might** know the truth  could | He **may not**  **might not** know the truth. |
| less sure |  |  |  |

PAST time

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Meaning** | **Affirmative** | **Negative** |
| sure | **deduction**  (95% sure) | He **must** have been happy then. | He **can’t** have been  **(couldn’t)** happy then. |
|  | **possibility**  (50% sure) | It **may**  **might** have rained in  **could** the night. | It **may** **not** have rained  **might not** in the night. |
| less sure |  |  |  |
|

Warning: do not use *must* + *not* to express deduction in negative sentences!

e.g.

He can’t have come yet.

He must have no experience. / He must be inexperienced.

He must have failed to get the tickets.

1. Deduction: *must* / *can*’*t* (*couldn*’*t*)

Ex. 46. Pick out the sentences with the verb *must* in the sense of deduction.

1. In every decision, there comes a crucial point when you must make up your mind.

2. There must have been a hundred people in this room.

3. Over the past few decades, college-educated women appear to have accepted the idea that babies must take a back seat to professional school and the establishment of a career.

4. Diana’s suitcase lay open on the floor. Next to it was a medicine bottle, its top off and its contents spilled on the carpet. Sixteen-month-old Ryan, big for his age and extremely active, must have unzipped the suitcase and opened the bottle while the family thought he was asleep.

5. I live on a small island off Washington State. All residents must be ferried to a nearby island in order to work, shop and take care of personal business.

6. – I’m an airline pilot.

– Oooh, a pilot! That must be exciting!

7. The captain of the sinking ship told the passengers that they must not abandon hope.

8. The agonizing shrieks of a hundred human voices were plainly distinguishable. I at once knew that we must be in the vicinity of a shipwreck.

9. You must be out of your mind.

10. The Anglo-Saxons passed on to us their farming vocabulary, including *sheep*, *shepherd*, *ox*, *earth*, *swine*, *wood*, *field* and *work*. They must have also enjoyed themselves because they gave us the words *glee*, *laughter* and *mirth*.

11. The owner of the suitcase must have been healthy – there were no medicine bottles in it.

12. You must be awfully fond of money.

13. I figured, at a rough guess, that the evening must have cost our host at least two thousand dollars.

14. If all are to have similar opportunities, they must have similar starting points.

Ex. 47. Open the brackets using the correct from of the verb.

1. I didn’t have the baggage checks. I must (throw) them away when I went through the customs.

2. She must (walk) in the cold because the colour was hightened along her cheekbones.

3. He smiled charmingly as I walked up to him, then frowned at what must (be) the expression on my face.

4. Then, somehow, I must (get) into my carriage. I saw the open road, and the fields, and trees and bushes.

5. Your family are very well-to-do. Your father is no longer alive, but I assume that he must (leave) considerable dowries for you and your sister.

6. We must (drive) through the streets of Paris for hours and hours, and all the time I cried so much that in the end I could cry no longer.

7. The play must (be) very boring for him, otherwise he wouldn’t have left after the first act.

8. At last I must (fall) asleep, for suddenly I woke up terrified that something dreadful had happened.

9. I must (sit) here for hours. The candles are almost burned down.

10. You give me the impression of being a man with something to hide. I’m not digging for information. It just occurred to me all of a sudden that you must (hide) something.

11. She must (be) too fast asleep to hear Brian rattling at the door, and only woke up while he was undressing.

12. Rocky lay on the floor and let his great-granddaughter explore his face, his tie, his polished shoes. Watching her climb all over him, I realized how it must (be) for me when I was a baby. He was a living playground.

Ex. 48. Answer the questions using *must*.

*Model*: How did these books get on the floor? (they / fall off the shelf) → *They must have fallen off the shelf*.

1. What is John doing at the moment? (he / talk on the phone)

2. Why didn’t Melanie come to the party? (she / feel unwell)

3. What’s the noise? (they / move the furniture)

4. Where is your wallet? (I / leave it in the car)

5. Why do you think you have a stomachache? (I / eat too much last night)

6. Why didn’t she recognize the children? (they / grow a lot)

7. Why did Karen lose the race? (She / misjudge the ability of the other competitors)

8. Why has Bill become overweight? (he / overeat lately)

9. Why did he make that rude remark? (he / feel resentful about not having been promoted)

10. Why did they break up? (they / fall out of love with each other)

11. How did the burglar get into her house? (she / leave the window unlocked)

12. Why did Joe fall on the floor? (the chair / break under his weight)

13. Why did she lose her temper? (she / be annoyed at the way he tried to take over the whole evening)

14. How did Linda manage to get to work in time? (she / take a taxi)

15. Why don’t they let him into the building? (he / have no security clearance)

Ex. 49. Fill in the gaps with *must* or *can’t* / *couldn’t* followed by the correct form of the verb.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) a loan from the bank. The bank refuses to lend to students.

2. The countryside looked parched and brown so there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a draught that summer.

3. – It’s amazing that the police arrived so quickly.

**–** The receptionist \_\_\_\_\_ (push) the panic button when the gunman came into the building.

4. Their unshakeable faith in each other \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a crucial factor in their relationship.

5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (resign) after getting a pay increase. He had spent ages negotiating for it.

6. You’ve only got to look at her to see that she’s not well. She \_\_\_\_\_ (run) a temperature.

7. The burglar \_\_\_\_\_ (get) away through the kitchen window. When the police arrived the window was wide open.

8. It’s not really in her nature to be aggressive. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) violent towards her brother.

9. As sales manager he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very involved in the promotion and marketing of the product.

10. The parents \_\_\_\_\_ (neglect) the child. Otherwise he wouldn’t have been taken away from them.

11. – He had a car accident.

– He \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) at high speed on a wet road.

12. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) of the opinion that teaching is a rewarding and important job if he discourages his children from becoming teachers.

13. He \_\_\_\_\_ (do) so much in so brief a time.

2. Possibility: *may* / *might* / *could*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Example** |
| PRESENT | He **may / might / could** **be** rich.  He **may / might / could** **be working** now. |
| or FUTURE | It **may / might / could** **rain** tonight. |
| PAST | They **may / might / could have left**.  He **may / might / could have been working** at home yesterday. |

**Warning:** Use **may not** / **might not** (NOT “could not”) to express negative possibility!

**Can –** theoretical possibility

The verb ***can*** may be used to express a more general or “theoretical” possibility.

Anyone **can** make a mistake. (= People often make mistakes)

Winter sports **can** be dangerous. (= Winter sports are often dangerous.)

She **could** be very annoying. (= She was often very annoying.)

**could + have + past participle**

– is used to talk about something which was possible but did not take place (unrealized past possibility).

I **could have spent** a week in Venice, but I didn’t want to.

It **could have been** wonderful. (But it wasn’t wonderful)

**might** and **could** in conditionals

The verbs ***might*** and ***could*** can be used in conditional sentences or in the sentences with implied condition.

If she took some exercise, she **might** not be so fat. (=…she possibly wouldn’t be so fat)

If the weather had been nicer, we **could** have gone out. (=...we would have been able to go out)

In your place I **might** have done the same thing. (=...perhaps I would have done the same thing)

**may / might (very) well =** it’s quite likely

She **may / might well** come along a bit later.

Ex. 51. Open the brackets using the correct form of the infinitive. Explain the meaning of the modal verbs.

1. Relatives speculated that Lila Gamble, a longtime diabetic, may (go) into insulin shock and lost control of the car.

2. Recent studies appear to show that Japan has become far less egalitarian. Some economists say the trend may not (be) an entirely bad thing, since it may (make) the economy more dynamic.

3. What creatures are deadliest to humans?

No contest: mosquitoes. Over the course of history the malarial parasite carried by mosquitoes may (kill) more people than all the wars that have ever been fought.

4. I felt dizzy and was afraid I might (faint) again.

5. The victim might not (be) defenseless, he might, in fact, (have) a weapon.

6. He could (avoid) these problems if he had followed your advice.

7. The likeness between the two men was striking. Indeed, they could (be) brothers instead of first cousins.

8. He talked with such tender intimacy that we might (be) friends for years.

9. On the night before the wedding Betsy nearly broke down, she was afraid things might (go) wrong.

10. The bullet could (come) from Sacco’s pistol, it could equally (fire) by some other gun.

11. At the moment they may (talk) about tomorrow’s reception.

12. While on the South Pacific island of Fatu Hiva, Thor Heyerdahl became fascinated with the notion that people of primitive cultures could (migrate) across the sea long before the Europeans did.

13. Deciding too quickly can (bring) disastrous consequences; delaying too long can (mean) missed opportunities. Often, *when* you decide is as important as the decision itself.

14. If the rock had hit the windshield, the driver could (kill).

15. Guinea pigs are raised for food in Ecuador, and are said to be higher in protein and lower in fat than beef. They can (be) purchased alive for consumption at home or taken right off the barbecue spit at roadside stands.

Ex. 52.Translate paying attention to *may* / *might well* .

1. Central Asia’s Fergana Valley **may very well** be the crucible for the World’s next Taliban.

2. Measures to curb inequality **may well** require international harmonisation.

3. If you need some soap, try the drugstore, though it **may well** be closed by now.

4. Students who cheat in class **may well** cheat in their jobs or on their spouses.

5. This **may** **very** **well** lead to environmentally friendly behaviour, but on the other hand it may not.

6. She **may well** be the best person to ask.

7. Problems with body temperature **may well** have brought about the death of dinosaurs.

8. His life **might well** have been saved if he had been taken to hospital sooner.

9. We lost the football match, but we **might well** have won if one of our players hadn’t been hurt.

10. A reduction in nuclear defences **may well** increase the likelihood of a nuclear war.

*May not* versus *Cannot*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Negative Possibility | Negative Deduction |
| She **may not**  **might not** be at home. | She **can’t** be at home. |
|  |  |

Ex. 53. Fill in the gaps with *may not* / *might not* or *cannot* / *could not* to express negative possibility or negative deduction.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ be involved in the crime! It’s absolutely impossible.

2. I don’t know whether he will like this idea. He \_\_\_\_\_ like it at all.

3. – Why did Robert leave his last job?

– Who knows? He \_\_\_\_\_ have got along with his boss or he \_\_\_\_\_ have found the job satisfying.

4. She \_\_\_\_\_ be married. She is under 18.

5. John doesn’t have a car, so he \_\_\_\_\_ have given you a lift.

6. I’m beginning to think I \_\_\_\_\_ be cut out for politics; I’m not sure my heart is strong enough.

7. He \_\_\_\_\_ have come to Katie’s leaving party on Friday. He is away on holiday in Greece.

8. She \_\_\_\_\_ have fooled them; they’re much too clever for that.

9. Bob \_\_\_\_\_ have been telling the truth. Who knows? – and does it really matter?

10. Jane knows perfectly well that Steve never returns his debts, so she \_\_\_\_\_ have lent him the money.

11. If we don’t get the money, we’ll lose the campaign; but if we do get the money, we still \_\_\_\_\_ win. I’m not at all sure than we can.

12. Things \_\_\_\_\_ be as bad as this survey suggests; however, this survey should serve as a kind of warning.

13. If you go to Paris you \_\_\_\_\_ find it as exciting and wonderful as you have expected.

14. Don’t get any closer – it \_\_\_\_\_ be safe.

15. – Why wasn’t he accepted to the college?

– Who knows? He \_\_\_\_\_ have satisfied the entrance requirements.

Ex. 54. Paraphrase the underlined part of each sentence using *may*, *might*, or *could* to express negative possibility or unrealized past possibility.

1. It was possible for Dave to apply for the position of marketing manager, but he didn’t want to.

2. It’s possible that she was waiting for someone else to speak, but I’m not sure.

3. Perhaps they have been following us since we left home, but I’m not really sure.

4. It was possible for Pete to attend the meeting, but he didn’t think there was any need for all of us to go.

5. Maybe the garage has given up selling petrol, but I don’t know for sure.

6. It was possible for them to stay indoors on a rainy night, but they didn’t.

7. Perhaps their relatives gave them expensive gifts, but you can never be sure.

8. It was possible for Robbie to go on a hike, but he was with me the whole weekend.

9. It’s possible that they have found a suitable house, but I’m not sure.

10. It’s possible that he received a telephone call that required his immediate attention. Who knows?

II. Other Meanings of Modal Verbs

**may / might... but...**

The verbs ***may* / *might*** are often used in arguments or discussions to express concession.

They **may / might** live next door **but** we hardly ever meet them.

He **may / might** not be very intelligent, **but** he’s got a lot of common sense.

**might and could** – annoyance, disapproval

The verbs ***might*** and ***could*** (NOT “may” or “can”) can be used to express annoyance or disapproval.

You **could** have told me! (= I wish you had told me)

You **might** at least have thanked the hostess! (= I wish you had thanked the hostess)

**might(just) as well** = to have no strong reason not to

The phrase ***might* (*just*) *as well*** can be used in suggestions and unpleasant comparisons.

It’s late – we **might as well** go home. (= we have no strong reason not to go home)

I didn’t have a good time at the party – I **might just as well** have stayed home. (= we had no strong reason not to stay at home)

Note: *Might as well* is often used in combination with *for all* (= considering how little).

e.g. For all the money she made she might as well have given up working outside home.

Ex. 56. Translate:

1. You **might just as well** say that black is white.

2. I barely remember the movie, except that the high school portrayed was so different from the one in our little town that it **might as well** have been on Mars.

3. You **might as well** take the parcel tomorrow – the post office will be closed by the time you get there if you go now.

4. The dead **might as well** try to speak to the living as the old to the young.

/Willa Cather, One of Ours, 1922/

5. Trinidad and Tobago has an army, but viewed in relation to modern warfare, it **might as well** be a troop of Boy Scouts. It comprises a handful of guns, a helicopter or two, and a couple of coastguard vessels, not fast enough to capture the speedboats plying cocaine from South America.

6. If you’ve forbidden yourself a certain food, all it takes is one bite of it for you to say, “Well, I’ve blown it now. I **might as well** eat the whole thing.” This all-or-nothing approach is dangerous.

7. It’s too late to go to the movies so we **might as well** watch TV.

8. Our holidays were ruined by the weather; we **might just as well** have stayed at home.

9. He was only a few miles away but for him it **might as well** have been a million miles.

10. The watchman at the entrance was asleep, he **might as well** have been a statue.

11. The revolutionaries **might as well** have come from another planet for all the relevance their schemes had to the real concerns of the peasantry.

12. For all the success you’ve had, you **might as well** have not bothered!

13. I **might as well** have been on another planet for all the hope I had of making them understand what I wanted.

14. If you believe in horoscopes, you **might as well** believe in the Easter Bunny or Santa Clause.

15. We’ve fallen into a pit, around 15 feet deep. We’re not getting out any time soon, so we **might as well** stay and look around.

Ex. 57. Paraphrase the sentences using *may* / *might well* or *might as well*.

1. I think it’s really quite likely that attitudes towards the idea of marriage will change soon.

2. It is quite probable that he will return to England if they offer him a good job.

3. Jackson would probably have been fired if they had found out that he was lying.

4. My arguments had no effect on him. It was like speaking to a brick wall.

5. It is fairly likely that the flight will be delayed because of the fog.

6. They are very likely to be in the bar celebrating.

7. They charge so much for repairs that it would be simpler to buy a new TV-set.

8. Stop worrying. It is more than likely that the weather will clear up soon.

9. We would probably have been badly injured if we hadn’t been wearing seat belts.

10. It is quite likely that she’ll call you tonight and tell the news.

11. You work long hours but your wages are very low. Why don’t you give up working?

12. More than likely she’ll miss the train if she doesn’t take a bus to the station instead of walking.

13. Chances are they’ll be married before the year’s out.

14. The weather was baking hot and conditions at the camp became unbearable. I was wondering whether that was similar to going on holiday to the Sahara Desert.

Ex. 58. Match the modals with the meanings they have in the following sentences.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **concession**  **ability / inability**  **possibility**  **annoyance, disapproval** | **negative possibility**  **unrealized past possibility**  **disbelief, surprise** (in questions)  **negative deduction** |

A.

1. I **could** barely see her face in the dark.

2. Most people experience some slight memory loss as they get older. But when forgetfulness, confusion and disorientation become more pronounced and frequent, they **could** be signs of Alzheimer disease.

3. “It **could** have been a disaster,” said Captain Dempsey. “But it never entered my mind that we would not anchor the *Lyra*.”

4. Casey **could** havepostponed the speech, but he was the tough son of an even tougher coal miner. His talk went smoothly. No one in the audience **could** tell from his strong, firm delivery what pain he was enduring.

5. As a young editor Wallace was eager to read every magazine he **could** lay his hands on. But he **could** scarcely afford subscriptions. Instead, he went each day to the library’s periodicals room.

6. How **could** any decent woman have tolerated such a state of things?

7. You **can** buy a person’s time; you **can** buy his physical presence in a given place; you **can** even buy a measured number of his skilled muscular motions per hour. But you **cannot** buy enthusiasm. You **cannot** buy initiative. You **cannot** buy the devotion of hearts, minds and souls. You have to *earn* those things. /*Clarence Francis*,“*For Executives Only*”/

8. A shellfish called Lingula **could** be the oldest living animal. Its fossil record stretches back some 500 million years.

9. Moral standards have become so eroded that many children **can** no longer tell right from wrong.

10. “He **could** have seen me walking to work,” she speculates.

11. “How **could** I have forgotten what a good actor Di Silva is?” Jennifer wondered.

12. Nothing you **could** ever do or say **could** be of the slightest interest to me.

13. Who **could** have thought that he was the kindest, most considerate and generous of men?

14. Cook’s book so graphically (наглядно, ярко) describes the Arctic territory and journey that only a very imaginative liar **could** have faked it.

15. The Maya knew of the wheel; and how **could** they have done so unless they had been told about it by extraterrestrial visitors?

B.

1. English is, and has always been, the tongue of the common man. Some words **may** be thought beautiful and some ugly; some **may** live and some **may** die. But it’s all English, and it has always belonged to everyone.

2. Personal contact has always achieved more than business letters. Globalisation **may** destroy distance but it also creates a greater need for high mobility. Businessmen still prefer to meet face to face.

3. You **might** not be aware that our body changes over time – and this affects our nutritional needs. For instance, if you find yourself eating less, you **might** not begetting all the possible nutrients you need from your diet. If you regularly take one or more medications, they **may** be affecting the way your body metabolizes some nutrients.

4. “You **might** have told me, Kitty,” Will said. Kitty looked miserable. “I promised Jack I wouldn’t,” she said.

5. Imagine what Beethoven or Newton **might** have accomplished had they been able to retain their full abilities for hundreds or thousands of years.

6. News of a disaster is always horrifying, but it brings a particular terror if we are afraid that someone we know **might** be involved.

7. The idea of travelling to other solar systems **may** sound far-fetched but scientists now see it as a real possibility.

8. A man **may** take to drink because he feels himself a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. /*George Orwell*/

9. Scorpions, which are among the oldest animals on earth, glow under ultraviolet light, and even faintly under moonlight, a characteristic that **may** have evolved to attract insects.

10. He **may** be intelligent but he has no common sense.

11. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is designing an undersea robot that swims like a fish. “RoboTuna” **might** be able to map the ocean floors, track schools of fish and detect pollution.

12. He had on the same threadbare green uniform as usual, with shiny back. “You **might** have put onyour gala uniform, General,” I said. But I was sorry at once for saying that. His tanned face grew quite red. “I have none, Eugenie,” he complained.

Ex. 60. Choose the correct word.

1. The area was badly hit by unemployment. This *can’t* / *must* have caused college graduates to flee.

2. He looked annoyed. “Your niece has told me everything,” he said. “You *might* / *may* have told me yourself.”

3. The weather *can* / *could* be horrible tomorrow.

4. The fare *can’t* / *may* *not* be cheaper on Sunday, but it’s worth checking.

5. If you had wanted to, you *can* / *could* have looked up my phone number in the telephone directory.

6. Ann *cannot* / *may not* be absolutely happy, but at least she no longer feels desperate.

7. –Do you know where John is at the moment?

– He *might* / *can* be on the way home.

8. Anne rarely makes a wrong decision – she *can’t* / *must* have good judgement and intuition.

9. “But what else *must* / *could* we have done?” She asked desperately.

10. It occurred to me that I *may* / *might* as well tell the truth.

11. Enormous places like New York *can’t* / *must* be difficult to administer.

12. I saw him grab his chest and fall; he *can* / *must* have had a heart attack.

13. He had a leg injury yesterday so he *couldn’t* / *might* *not* be playing golf.

14. The Prime Minister has resigned. He *must* / *might* be involved in some financial scandal, but nobody knows for sure.

15. I *could* / *may* have tried harder – but I still don’t think all this criticism is fair.

16. No one will eat this food; it *could* / *might* just as well be thrown away.

17. She is two hours late – what *can* / *may* have happened?

18. Being unemployed *can* / *must* lead to frustration and boredom.

Ex. 61. Complete the dialogues, using modal verbs and the correct from of the verbs in brackets.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Ellen: | Oh, no! Where’s my wallet? It isn’t in my handbag. |
| Max: | Don’t panic. You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (put) it into your pocket. |
| Ellen: | My pocket is empty. Well – I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (leave) it in the bookstore or in the coffee shop, I don’t know... |
| Max: | Wait a minute. When did you last have it? You had to use the telephone... |
| Ellen: | Yes. Yes. I had to use my phone credit card. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (leave) my wallet in the phone booth. Hurry up! |
| 2. | Anne: | Ouch! These shoes hurt! But they are wonderful. I’m going to buy them. |
| Dick: | Are you mad? They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (look) wonderful but they are not comfortable. How can you buy them? |
| 3. | Nick: | Something wrong? |
| Edna: | Oh, nothing’s wrong. It’s just... |
| Nick: | What? |
| Edna: | Brenda was supposed to come home more than an hour ago. It’s only a twenty-minute drive. I think she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a car accident. |
| Nick: | Please don’t worry, Edna. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the supermarket or she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) still in the office. |
| Edna: | She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the office. I called half an hour ago, but nobody answered the call. |
| Nick: | Then she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (get) stuck in the traffic jam. The traffic is pretty heavy these days.  (*a car horn sounds*) |
| Nick: | That \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) Brenda! |
| Edna: | Oh, no! That \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) Brenda, she never blows her horn like that. |
| Nick: | Your guess is as good as mine, I should say. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ just as well go and check that it’s really Brenda. |

III. Modal Verbs *Should* and *Need*

Ex. 62. Complete the sentences using *you should* or *you shouldn’t*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drink so much when you have to drive – it’s just asking for trouble.

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see the dentist before your teeth rot away completely.

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ try to get a job in this company. The employees are overworked and underpaid.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ avoid the area because of the high risk of avalanches.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ visit your GP if you are concerned about your health.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eat fattening food if you want to keep fit.

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drive at top speed on a busy road.

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tell people you love them now – tomorrow may be too late.

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wear high-heeled shoes if you go on a hike.

Ex. 63. Paraphrase the sentences using *should* or *shouldn’t*.

1. I wish there had been an investigation into the cause of the disaster.

2. It’s rather cold in here. Do you think it’s a good idea for me to turn the heating on?

3. Why didn’t you consider all aspects of your decision, negative as well as positive?

4. I wish you hadn’t hit him so hard. You’ve knocked him out.

5. I wish the society would help those who cannot help themselves.

6. Why did you agree without knowing what it would cost?

7. Our mistake lay in not giving that possibility its due weight.

8. He didn’t think about the consequences of his actions beforehand.

9. It was unwise of her to draw her quick-tempered brother into the argument.

10. There is no point in reproaching yourself, there’s nothing you could have done.

11. She takes the attitude that it’s reasonable to allow children to learn at their own pace.

12. It’s not a good idea for responsible journalists to quote the informal remarks that politicians give in interviews.

*didn’t need* (*to do*) versus *needn’t have* (*done*)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **needn’t have (done)** | You needn’t have told him the news: he knew it already.  (*the action was unnecessary but it was performed.  It was a waste of time, effort, etc.*) |
| **didn’t need (to do)** | I didn’t need to buy any extra material.  *(the action was unnecessary, and normally it was not performed*.) |

Ex. 64.Complete the sentences using *didn’t need*(*to do*)or *needn’t have* (*done*).

1. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (book) the tickets well in advance – we bought them in the ticket office shortly before the performance.

2. You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ask) the guard the time of the train’s departure. I could have told you when the train departs.

3. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (get) up early for work yesterday – it was Sunday.

4. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (worry) about the interview – she was head and shoulders above all the other applicants.

5. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (learn) a foreign language to improve his job prospects. He must have been learning it purely for pleasure.

6. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (say) I had just returned from Russia. Martin was unimpressed.

7. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (speak) in a whisper. The children were fast asleep and didn’t even stir when the alarm clock went off.

8. It was not a black-tie event so I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a black suit and a white shirt.

9. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (give) detailed explanations. She was quick at understanding what we wanted her to do.

10. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (introduce) my next guest. Everyone present knew who he was.

GRAMMAR REVISION  
(Conditional Sentences, Subjunctive Mood, Modal Verbs)

Ex. 65. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

A.

– Francesca, did you tell Liam about your conversation with Bard?

– Why do you want to know?

– Because we think he might (to talk) with that journalist from *The* *News*.

– That’s ridiculous! Of course, Liam wouldn’t (to do) it. You’re making it up.

– Francesca, I can’t (to tell) you how much I wish it (to be) true. Unfortunately it isn’t.

Francesca felt absolutely numb as if she (to watch) some mildly interesting film. In her heart of hearts she knew it must ( to be) true but refused to admit it.

– He can’t (to sell) the story to the newspaper. I’ll never believe it.

/from “The Dilemma” by Penny Vincenzi/

B.

Three days after Tony Lord had found his girlfriend Alison brutally murdered he was in the office of Saul Ravin, the best criminal lawyer in the town.

When the lawyer explained to him what according to the police might (to happen) to Alison, Tony felt several emotions hit him at once – the anguish that Alison must (to feel), his own hatred of the murderer, the distaste for discussing Alison as if she (to be) a piece of evidence.

“There is something else we have to think about,” Ravin went on “Who could be out there who may (to have) that kind of feeling about Alison?”

“No one. She wasn’t some slut running from boyfriend to boyfriend,” Tony felt his voice rise. “I was the one who found her. I am the one the cops think killed her. If I (to know) someone who could do this I (to tell) them. Unless I (to kill) him first.”

Ravin gave him a cool look. “Until pretty recently she was dating other guys. If you had feelings for her, they might (to have) them too. She might even (to have) some feelings about them. Or maybe they thought she did and felt let down.” Ravin’s voice became factual. “Which gets us to a few more truths. If you (to go) to trial, your parents’ finances (to be) ruined. We need the cops to believe that someone else might (to do) this. For this I need your help.”

/from “Silent Witness” by Richard N. Patterson/

Ex. 66. Complete the text filling in the gaps with modal verbs; use negation where necessary.

Liam was standing at the bus stop not far from his father’s office in a sudden downpour of rain, when a large beige Mercedes driven by his mother-in-law pulled up beside him and she signaled for him to get in.

“I \_\_\_\_ not drive past you,” she said, “you don’t look at all well. Where are you going?”

“Islington.”

“Oh, well, I \_\_\_\_ take you some of the way.”

“Thank you. That’s very kind. Did you manage to see my father?”

“No,” Francesca said in a dead voice, remembering the encounter with Marcia, her husband’s secretary.

“Mr Channing didn’t tell me you were coming, Mrs Channing.”

“No, he \_\_\_\_ have done that, because he didn’t know,” said Francesca briskly, “But I was passing and I wondered if he was terribly busy or if I \_\_\_\_ see him. But Bard Channing was in conference and \_\_\_\_ stop.”

Liam smiled hesitatingly.

“It was on the off chance,” Francesca said determinedly, “It is just that Kitty – our new baby, you know …”

“Yes, of course, I know,” he felt a stab of guilt run through him. \_\_\_\_ she have thought that he \_\_\_\_ not know? “Is anything wrong with her?”

“Quite wrong. She \_\_\_\_ have a heart problem. I took her to see a consultant this morning, for the very first time. He heard a murmur (шумы) and now she \_\_\_\_ have something called echo cardiogram done. Oh, God. I’m sorry. I \_\_\_\_ be telling you this. You \_\_\_\_ be interested.”

“Of course, I am,” he said and meant it. “But doesn’t Bard know about it?”

“Not yet. The thing is I wanted to tell him, to be with him. And – well, he was busy, and he really isn’t very good at sympathy.”

“You \_\_\_\_ tell me,” he said “I know. When my mother died he wasn’t very good then either.”

“Oh, God, it \_\_\_\_ have been terrible for you, Liam.”

/from “The Dilemma” by Penny Vincenzi/

Ex. 67. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Add modal verbs where necessary.

The crime was discovered by Police Constable Dover at 1 a.m. on the morning of the 22nd. When on his round he tried the door of the shop and found it unfastened, he thought that the shop (rob). He entered and at first thought the place was empty. Directing his torch over the counter he caught sight of the huddled-up body of an old woman. The police surgeon stated that the woman (strike) down by a heavy blow on the back of the head, probably while she was reaching down a packet of cigarettes from the shelf behind the counter. Death (occur) about nine to seven hours previously.

“Are you sure nothing was taken from the shop?” asked Poirot.

The inspector shrugged his shoulders.

“That depends. A packet or two of cigarettes (take) – but you’d hardly commit murder for that.”

“And there was nothing – how shall I put it – introduced into the shop? Nothing that was odd there – incongruous?”

“There was a railway guide,” said the inspector.

“A railway guide?”

“Yes. It was open at the right page for Andover and turned face downward on the counter. Seems as though the murderer (look) up the trains to London when the old lady entered. If so, it (not be) an Andover man at all. But then, of course, the railway guide (belong) to someone else who had nothing to do with the murder at all, but just forgot it there.”

When we went out, Poirot gave me certain instructions, crossed the road, entered a greengrocer’s shop and addressed the stout lady who rose to serve him:

“It was just opposite you, was it not, that this murder occurred? What a sensation it (cause) you!”

The stout lady was obviously tired of talking about the murder. She (have) a long day of it. She observed:

“It (be) just as well if some of that gaping crowd (clear) off. What is there to look at, I’d like to know?”

“It (be) very different last night,” said Poirot. “You even (observe) the murderer enter the shop – a tall, fair man with a beard, was he not?”

“Well, I don’t get much chance of noticing … no, I can’t say I saw anyone of that description anywhere about.”

I broke in on my cue.

“Excuse me, sir,” I said to Poirot. “You (misinform). A short dark man I was told.”

An interested discussion intervened in which the stout lady, her lank husband and a hoarse-voiced shop-boy all participated. No less than four short dark men had been observed, and the hoarse boy had seen a tall fair one, “but he had no beard,” he added regretfully.

Finally, our purchases made, we left the establishment, leaving our falsehoods uncorrected.

“And what was the point of all that, Poirot?”

“In the future their evidence (be) useful. I wanted to estimate the chances of a stranger being noticed entering the shop opposite.”

“ (not) you (do)without all that pack of lies?” I demanded somewhat reproachfully. “You simply (ask)!

“No, mon ami. If I simply (ask), as you put it, I (get) no answer at all to my questions. If I (ask) those people for information they would (shut) up like oysters. But by making a statement and by your contradiction of it, tongues were immediately loosened.”

/from “ABC Murders” by Agatha Christie/