

MODALS – Practice Exercises

Complete the sentences using the correct modal verb. Include past forms such as must have + past participle, might have + past participle, can't have + past participle, etc.

Part 1 – Modals of probability (present)

1. She looks tired. She _____ be sick.
2. He isn't here yet. He _____ be late again.
3. They _____ come to the party, but they're not sure. (50%)
4. It's very cloudy. It _____ rain.
5. This story is impossible. It _____ be true!
6. He knows everything about the project. He _____ be the manager.
7. I don't see her coat. She _____ already left.

Part 2 – Ability, permission, obligation

8. When he was a child, he _____ swim very well.
9. You _____ finish this exercise before leaving.
10. _____ I speak to the manager, please?
11. You _____ smoke here. It's forbidden.
12. We _____ try again if we want to succeed. (weak possibility)
13. Students _____ use a dictionary during the exam. (permission)
14. She is very talented. She _____ speak four languages.

Part 3 – Past deduction

Use: modal + have + past participle

15. The lights were off all night. They _____ gone out.
(strong deduction)

16. I didn't see him at school. He _____ been sick.
(possibility)

17. The door is broken. Someone _____ pushed it too hard. (strong deduction)

18. She was smiling all day. She _____ received good news. (strong deduction)

19. He failed the test again. He _____ studied enough.
(impossibility)

20. She didn't answer for hours. She _____ forgotten her phone.

21. The cake is burnt. You _____ left it in the oven too long.

Part 4 – Mixed sentences

22. You look pale. You _____ sit down for a moment.

23. He didn't answer his phone. He _____ been driving.

24. _____ you help me with this exercise, please?
(polite request)

25. They _____ start without us. It's a group activity.

26. I can't find my keys. I _____ left them at home.
(strong deduction)

27. It's late. We _____ take a taxi instead of walking.

28. She wasn't at the meeting. She _____ been informed.