

MODAL PERFECTS

Use: we use modal perfects to speculate about and make deductions about past actions.

Form: [modal (gives meaning) + have + past participle (of the main verb)]

Meanings:

a) To express certainty in the past:

- (+) **must have** p. p.
- (-) **can't have** p. p.

b) To express a possibility in the past:

- might have** p.p.
- may have** p.p.
- could have** p.p.

c) To suggest an alternative past action:

- could have** p.p.

d) When we regret not doing something:

- should have** p.p.

e) When we think the person did the wrong thing:

- shouldn't have** p.p.