

## Explanations

### Ability

*Could* and *was able to*

To talk about general past ability we use *could*.

*When I was young, I could run very fast.*

To talk about one specific past action we use *was able to*.

*Luckily, Mary was able to help us.*

### Certainty and uncertainty

#### ■ *Must have* and *can't have*

These are used to make logical deductions about past actions.

*I must have left my wallet in the car.* (I am sure I did)

*Jim can't have noticed you.* (I am sure he didn't)

#### ■ *May have*, *might have* and *could have*

These express possibility or uncertainty about past actions.

*Jean might have missed the train.* (perhaps she did)

*He may not have received the letter.* (perhaps he didn't)

*You could have been killed!* (it was a possibility)

#### ■ *Was/Were to have*

This describes something which was supposed to happen, but didn't. It is formal in use.

*He was to have left yesterday.* (he was supposed to leave, but he didn't)

### Obligation

#### ■ *Had to*

*Must* has no past form, so we use *had to*.

*Sorry I'm late, I had to take the children to school.*

The question form is *Did you have to?*

*Did you have to work late yesterday?*

#### ■ *Should have* and *ought to have*

These express the feeling that a mistake was made. There is a criticism.

*I should have posted this letter yesterday.* (I didn't do the right thing)

*You shouldn't have told me the answer.* (you were wrong to do so)

#### ■ *Needn't have* and *didn't need to*

There is a slight difference between these two forms. Compare:

*I needn't have arrived at seven.*

(I arrived at seven, but it wasn't necessary)

*I didn't need to arrive at seven.*

(we don't know when I arrived – maybe seven or later)

But in everyday speech we often use *didn't need to* for both cases.

### Pronunciation and writing

In speech, *have* is often contracted in the forms in this unit.

*I must've left my wallet in the car.*

### Indirect speech

*Must* and *shall*

In indirect speech (see Grammar 6) *must* is reported as *must* or *had to*. *Shall* is reported as *should*.

'You must go.' He told me **I must go.**

He told me **I had to go.**

'Shall I help?' He asked if he **should help.**

Practice

1 Choose the most suitable response to each comment or question.



- a) A: What did I do wrong?  
B: ① You shouldn't have connected these two wires.  
2) You didn't have to connect these two wires.
- b) A: Why is the dog barking?  
B: 1) It should have heard something.  
2) It must have heard something.
- c) A: Why are you home so early?  
B: 1) I needn't have worked this afternoon.  
2) I didn't have to work this afternoon.
- d) A: Why did you worry about me? I didn't take any risks.  
B: 1) You must have been injured.  
2) You could have been injured.
- e) A: You forgot my birthday again!  
B: 1) Sorry, I should have looked in my diary.  
2) Sorry, I had to look in my diary.
- f) A: We had a terrible crossing on the boat in a storm.  
B: 1) That didn't have to be very pleasant!  
2) That can't have been very pleasant!
- g) A: Where were you yesterday? You didn't turn up!  
B: 1) I had to go to London.  
2) I must have gone to London.
- h) A: What do you think about the election?  
B: 1) The Freedom Party had to win.  
2) The Freedom Party should have won.
- i) A: There's a lot of food left over from the party, isn't there?  
B: 1) Yes, you couldn't have made so many sandwiches.  
2) Yes, you needn't have made so many sandwiches.
- j) A: What do you think has happened to Tony?  
B: 1) I don't know, he should have got lost.  
2) I don't know, he might have got lost.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- a) It wasn't necessary for me to go out after all.  
have  
I ..... *needn't have gone out* ..... after all.
- b) There was a plan for Jack to become manager, but he left.  
was  
Jack ..... manager, but he left.
- c) It was a mistake for you to buy that car.  
bought  
You ..... that car.
- d) I don't think that Sally enjoyed her holiday.  
have  
Sally ..... enjoyed her holiday.
- e) It's possible that Bill saw me.  
may  
Bill ..... me.
- f) I'm sure that Karen was a beautiful baby.  
been  
Karen ..... a beautiful baby.
- g) Perhaps Alan didn't mean what he said.  
meant  
Alan ..... what he said.
- h) It's possible that I left my wallet at home.  
could  
I ..... my wallet at home.
- i) I think you were wrong to sell your bike.  
shouldn't  
You ..... bike.
- j) The only thing I could do was run away!  
had  
I ..... run away!



**3** Underline the most suitable phrase in each sentence.

- a) We should have turned left. We've missed the turning/We followed the instructions.
- b) We didn't have to wear uniform at school. But I never did/That's why I liked it.
- c) The butler must have stolen the jewels. He was ordered to/There is no other explanation.
- d) You could have phoned from the station. I'm sure you did/Why didn't you?
- e) You needn't have bought any dog food. There isn't any/There is plenty.
- f) Ann might not have understood the message. I suppose it's possible/She wasn't supposed to.
- g) You can't have spent all the money already! You weren't able to/I'm sure you haven't.
- h) I shouldn't have used this kind of paint. It's the right kind/It's the wrong kind.

**4** Rewrite each sentence so that it contains *can't, might, must, should or needn't*.

- a) I'm sure that David took your books by mistake.  
David must have taken your books by mistake.
- b) It was a mistake to park outside the police station.  
.....
- c) It was unnecessary for you to clean the floor.  
.....
- d) I'm sure that Liz hasn't met Harry before.  
.....
- e) Ann possibly hasn't left yet.  
.....
- f) I'm sure they haven't eaten all the food. It's not possible!  
.....
- g) Jack is supposed to have arrived half an hour ago.  
.....
- h) Perhaps Pam and Tim decided not to come.  
.....
- i) I think it was the cat that took the fish from the table!  
.....
- j) It was a waste of time worrying, after all!  
.....

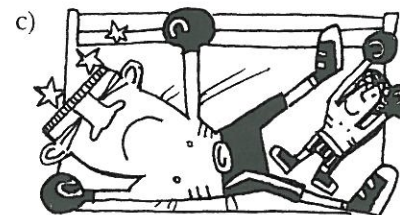
**5** Choose the most suitable description for each picture.



- 1) You must have read the notice.
- 2) You should have read the notice.



- 1) We can't have worn our raincoats.
- 2) We needn't have worn our raincoats.



- 1) He must have hit him in the right spot!
- 2) He should have hit him in the right spot!



- 1) You must have caused an accident!
- 2) You might have caused an accident!



- 1) Sorry, I had to go to the dentist's.
- 2) Sorry, I should have gone to the dentist's.



- 1) You shouldn't have stroked the lion!
- 2) You didn't have to stroke the lion!

6 Look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. Tick each correct line. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in the space.

*Zoo escape shocks residents*

Residents in the Blackwood area complained last night that they should have had been warned about the escape of a dangerous snake. The snake, a python is three metres long, and can to kill pets. 'I heard about it on the radio,' said Mrs Agnes Bird. 'I had gone to lock my dog in the kitchen this morning, because I thought the snake could easily have attack it. Now I am not sure what I ought to be do.' The snake, called Lulu, disappeared from the Blackwood Zoo. 'It must be have found a hole in the wall, or it might have been slipped out while the door was open,' said zoo director Basil Hart. Mr Hart said that people didn't needn't have been alarmed. 'A local radio station must have had mixed up its reports,' he went on. 'We found Lulu a few minutes after we missed her. We have had to climb a tree and bring her down. So you see, you should have never believe silly stories you hear on the radio!

- .....  
had
- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....
- 6) .....
- 7) .....
- 8) .....
- 9) .....
- 10) .....
- 11) .....
- 12) .....
- 13) .....
- 14) .....
- 15) .....

**Key point**

In speech, *have* is often contracted with modals used in the past.  
*You shouldn't've done it.*

→ SEE ALSO  
**Grammar 20: Consolidation 4**