

# 38 Speculation and deduction

You can use modal verbs to describe past events with varying degrees of certainty. These constructions are useful for speculating about events you haven't witnessed.

 **New language** More uses for modal verbs

 **Aa Vocabulary** Phrasal verbs with "out"

 **New skill** Speculating and making deductions

## 38.1 KEY LANGUAGE MODAL VERBS FOR SPECULATION AND DEDUCTION

When you're speculating about the past and you're sure something happened, use "must have" with the past participle.

**He just disappeared. Aliens must have abducted him.**

The speaker is sure.



When you're not sure whether something happened or not, replace "must" with "may," "might," or "could."

**They { might  
may  
could } have taken him to another planet.**

The speaker is unsure.



If you are sure something did not happen, use "can't" or "couldn't."

**Hold on! It { can't  
couldn't } have been aliens, they don't exist.**

The speaker is sure it is not possible.



## 38.2 MATCH THE PAIRS OF SENTENCES TOGETHER

He drove his car into the water!

1

He's walking with crutches.

2

Those teenagers look very tired today.

3

The plants are all dry and dead.

4

Someone's left the gate open again.

5

The girl next door looks really happy.

He must have hurt his legs.

It could have been the delivery man.

They may have had a party last night.

He couldn't have seen the "flood" sign.

She might have passed her exam.

It can't have rained all week.





### 38.3 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

She broke her arm falling off a horse. It might have hurt.

She broke her arm falling off a horse. It must have hurt.

1 The ground is dry so it can't rained last night.

2 She ate two more slices of cake, so it could have tasted nice.

3 A police car just drove past. There might have was a robbery.

4 He doesn't have any money. He can't not have bought that car himself.

5 They were in the same store as us. They have might buy the same coat.



### 38.4 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE



He had a brand new waterproof coat on. He **must** / **might** / **can't** have stayed dry.



1 I missed a call. It **must** / **may** / **couldn't** have been Diego, he said he might call.



2 I haven't checked my emails yet, so she **must** / **might** / **can't** have replied already, I'm not sure.



3 After the run, he drank a whole bottle of water. He **must** / **might** / **can't** have been really thirsty.



4 She loved both dresses, but she **must** / **might** / **can't** have bought both, as they were too expensive.



5 She hadn't slept for two days. She **must** / **might** / **can't** have been exhausted.



## 38.5 DESCRIBE WHAT EACH PERSON MUST HAVE DONE, SPEAKING OUT LOUD



He must have scored a goal.



passed her driving test

eaten too much candy

scored a goal

won the lottery

slept through his alarm

failed their exams



## 38.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK THE CORRECT SUMMARY



A radio host is talking about the unsolved mystery of the *SS Ourang Medan*.

1 The ship sent out a call saying that most of the crew had passed out. The *Silver Star* went to check out the ship and found that everyone on board was dead except the dog, which had passed out.

2 The ship sent out a call saying that a few of the crew were dead. The *Silver Star* went to check out the ship and the sailors freaked out when they saw the dead crew. However, the dog was still alive.

3 The ship sent out a call saying that most of the crew were dead. The *Silver Star's* crew went to check out the ship and found that everyone on board, including the dog, had died with their eyes still open.



### 38.7 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE PHRASAL VERBS IN THE PANEL

I was so scared on the roller coaster ride that I nearly passed out.

- 1 Every month my company \_\_\_\_\_ a newsletter to all its customers.
- 2 Every time my sister sees a spider, she \_\_\_\_\_ and starts screaming.
- 3 Should we go to the movie theater and \_\_\_\_\_ what's showing?
- 4 He isn't like anyone else. He really \_\_\_\_\_ from the crowd.
- 5 I can't \_\_\_\_\_ what this guy's written. His handwriting is awful.

passed out

sends out

stands out

check out

work out

freaks out



### 38.8 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Lateral thinking puzzles give you a lot of information.

True  False

- 1 Pete lives on the 10th floor of the apartment building.

True  False

- 2 Pete always gets out of the elevator at the right floor for his apartment.

True  False

- 3 Pete doesn't like walking, but he sometimes climbs two flights of stairs.

True  False

- 4 The article tells you the solution to the puzzle about Pete.

True  False

#### GAMES AND PUZZLES

### Lateral Thinking Puzzles

With a lateral thinking puzzle, you are given an unusual situation and a little information. Your task is to discover the explanation. Can you work this one out?

A young boy, Pete, lives on the 12th floor of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby. In the evening, he gets into the elevator, and, if there's someone else there, he goes up to his floor directly. Otherwise, he goes to the 10th floor and walks up two flights of stairs to his apartment. He does this even though he hates walking. Why?

The solution to this puzzle is that the young boy is too short to reach the buttons for those floors numbered above 10.

### 38 ✓ CHECKLIST

More uses for modal verbs

Phrasal verbs with "out"

Speculating and making deductions