

# **Lecture 03 Model verbs: speculation and expectation**



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**Past speculation**



# Past speculation



# Past Spéculation Rule

Could / couldn't

Can / can't

May / might

Must

Should / ought to



*have*




Past participle

**Sth possible/probable**



# Past Speculation: sth is possible or probably happened

**may (not) or might (not) + have + past participle**



**Past Speculation: sth is possible or probably happened**



We'd better hurry- the hotel might  
have given our room away by now!

**Past Speculation: sth is possible or probably happened**



Students applying for this course may have studied maths at degree level.



# Past Speculation



Someone **might have been** taking money from the till.

# Past Speculation



I'm not sure where Susie is. She **could have left** early.

# Past Speculation

- In informal speech we can make the speculation **stronger** by adding **well**:

We'd better phone them, they **might well have** had some news by now.

(=They've probably had some news.)



We didn't interrupt because they **may well have been having** a serious conversation.

**Sth strongly TRUE**



**SPECULATION**

**CERTAINTY**

# Past Speculation

- If we strongly believe that something was TRUE because we have evidence, we use:

**must+ have+ past participle (simple/continuous)**

# Past Speculation

I couldn't wake you this morning. You **must have been sleeping** really soundly.



# Past expectation

There was a terrific noise last night. It **must have been** an explosion.





# Past Speculation

A Note the difference between the two past forms **must+ have+ past** participle and **had to**:

**compare!**

## DEDUCTION

But Lawrence is such a well-known author. You **must have read** something by him!

## OBLIGATION

Yes, I have.  
Unfortunately, we **had to** read several of his books on my university course.

# Sth NOT true

**Not True!**



# Past Speculation

- If we strongly believe that something was **NOT** **TRUE** because of evidence, we use

**can't or couldn't+ have+ past participle**

# Past Speculation



She **can't have fixed** the computer, it's still not working properly.

(= I'm sure she didn't fix it.)

# Past Speculation

Peter **Can't** have been left. His car is outside his house

# Past Speculation

- We often use can't+ have or couldn't+ have to express **surprise** or **disbelief**:



She **couldn't have done it**; she's such a nice woman.

# Past Speculation

The daughter: I have been waiting for a long time

The father: You **can't have been** waiting for long! - I only went out five minutes ago!







# **choose!**

The right option/s









**He \_\_\_\_\_ known about it when I  
saw him. I'm sure he would have  
told me.**

**a) must have**

**b) might have**



**c) couldn't have**



He \_\_\_\_\_ known about it when I  
saw him. I'm sure he would have  
told me.

a) must have

b) might have




c) **couldn't have**

**Oh, great! His car's here. He \_\_\_\_\_  
come home earlier than planned.**


- a) must have**
- b) might have**
- c) can have**

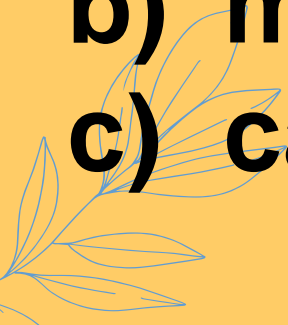
Oh, great! His car's here. He \_\_\_\_\_  
come home earlier than planned.

- a) **must have**
- b) **might have**
- c) **can have**



**She \_\_\_\_\_ cleaned the whole house  
on her own in two hours. She must  
have had some help.**



- a) must have**
  - b) might have**
  - c) can't have**
- 

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**Wow! Have you finished all that already? You \_\_\_\_\_ been hungry!**

- a) must have**
- b) may have**
- c) can't have**

**Wow! Have you finished all that already? You \_\_\_\_\_ been hungry!**

- a) **must have**
- b) **may have**
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**How did she fail that exam? She  
\_\_\_\_\_ studied very much.**

- a) must have**
- b) may have**
- c) can't have**

**How did she fail that exam? She  
\_\_\_\_\_ studied very much.**

- a) must have**
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- c) can't have**

# Past expectation



# Past expectation

➤ We use

**should (not) ought(not) to+ have+ past participle**

to talk about an action that we **expected to happen in the past**

# Past expectation

- I don't know where our main speaker can be. He should/ought to have arrived hours ago.

(= We expected him to arrive hours ago.)



# Past expectation

- After a long illness, his father's death shouldn't/ought not to have come as a surprise.

(= The death was expected.)




# Past expectation

\_The keys should have been hanging  
outside the apartment . we couldn't get in.

# Practice

**Consider these real communicative situations use "should," "ought to," and other modal verbs to express expectations in the past:**







## Missed Flight:

### ➤ Situation:

**You are talking to a friend who missed their flight. Express your expectation regarding their punctuality.**

**Example:**

**"You \_\_\_\_\_."**





## **Missed Flight:**

### **➤ Situation:**

**You are talking to a friend who missed their flight. Express your expectation regarding their punctuality.**

### **Example:**

**"You should have arrived at the airport well before the departure time."**





# Late Assignment

➤ **Situation:**  
**Discussing a student's late submission of an assignment.**

**Example:**

**"You\_\_\_\_\_."**






# Late Assignment

## ➤ Situation:

**Discussing a student's late submission of an assignment.**

## **Example:**

**"You ought to have handed in your assignment on time. It was due yesterday."**





## Forgotten Birthday:

➤ **Situation: Talking about a friend who forgot your birthday.**

**Example: “\_\_\_\_\_.”**





## Forgotten Birthday:

➤ **Situation: Talking about a friend who forgot your birthday.**

**Example: "You should have remembered my birthday; it's the same date every year."**





**In each sentence, identify whether the modal verb expresses high expectation or possibility.**





**She \_\_\_\_\_ have received the email by now; she  
checks her inbox regularly**







**She **Should** have received the email by now; she checks her inbox regularly.(Expectation)**





**The weather forecast says it \_\_\_\_\_ rain later,  
so take an umbrella.**







**The weather forecast says it **May (Possibility)**rain  
later, so take an umbrella.**






**She \_\_\_\_\_ have the answer to the question  
since she's an expert on the topic**





**She **Should (Expectation)** have the answer to the question since she's an expert on the topic**





# Thanks!



Do you have any questions?