

Modal verbs

Exercise 1: Choose the most suitable option to express no necessity

1. I **didn't need to attend** the recruitment interview because I was told that my qualifications and experience were more than satisfactory and, as a matter of fact, I had been hired.
2. I appreciated I **didn't need to draw up** an agency agreement myself, the manager appointed a team of people to assist me.
3. I was pleased I **didn't need to take** belongings with me, there was a strongbox available.
4. We **needn't have refurbished** the building. It was found on fire a month later.
5. He realized he **needn't have attended** the training course and could have opted on-line

Exercise 2: Complete the gaps with a suitable word to express the degree of probability indicated in brackets.

1. Physicians are not free to choose many drugs for their patients even though the drugs **could/may/might** be widely available abroad. (UNCERTAINTY / POSSIBILITY)
2. China is **likely to** increase petroleum tax. (EXPECTATION - high probability)
3. I believe they **will** suspend him from official duty since he is fully responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Darfur. (CERTAINTY)
4. You **might/may** not have permission to use this network. (UNCERTAINTY / POSSIBILITY)
5. There's **no doubt** that they have been involved in running big insider-trading scheme. (DEDUCTION - very high probability)
6. Financial experts say that the budget deficit **should** not affect interest rates. (EXPECTATION)
7. It **can't** be Jack's fault. He is the most reliable and skilled worker. (DEDUCTION - very high probability)

ts_1

Exercise 3: Choose the correct forms expressing criticism.

1. The death toll doubled. The World Health Organization
 - should have taken tighter measures to prevent such tragedy.**
 - ought to took tighter measures to prevent such tragedy.
 - should be taken tighter measures to prevent such tragedy.
 - should took tighter measures to prevent such tragedy.
 - ought to have taken tighter measures to prevent such tragedy.**

ts_2

2. You say you lost your passport and wallet?
 - You should not left the luggage unattended. Now it's too late to be cautious.
 - You should not have to leave the luggage unattended. Now it's too late to be cautious.
 - You should not have left the luggage unattended. Now it's too late to be cautious.**
 - You ought not have to leave the luggage unattended. Now it's too late to be cautious.

- You ought not to have left the luggage unattended. Now it's too late to be cautious.

test 3

3. The party lost the elections. They
- should have launched a more expensive election campaign.
 - ought have to launch a more expensive election campaign.
 - ought have launched a more expensive election campaign.
 - ought to have launched a more expensive election campaign.
 - should launched a more expensive election campaign.

Exercise 4: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using should/ought to, could, may/might, must + perfect infinitive. Use contracted forms.

1. I always use a calculator so I certainly didn't miscount the figures.

I **couldn't have miscounted** the figures.

2. He certainly didn't deal with these financial forecasts. It's his nightmare, he hates figures.

He **can't have dealt** with these financial forecasts.

3. It was a mistake for you to leak the sensitive information.

You **shouldn't have leaked** the sensitive information.

4. It's possible that she hired someone experienced in the retail clothing sector.

She **may/might/could have hired** someone experienced in the retail clothing sector.

5. Perhaps the price of gold wasn't affected by the political worries, who knows?

The price of gold **might/may not have been affected** by the political worries.

6. I think the government was wrong to subsidize their project.

The government **shouldn't have subsidized** their project.

7. I'm sure that two company commanders were involved in the incident.

Two company commanders **must have been involved** in the incident.

8. I don't think they met this year's targets.

They **can't have met** this year's targets.