

Unit 3: Past Modals

I.

A Answer yes, no or not sure to each of the questions below.

- 1 *You should have chosen her for the team.*
Was she chosen for the team?
- 2 *He must have made over 30 changes to the project.*
Did he make over 30 changes to the project?
- 3 *They needn't have spent so much time on the report.*
Did they spend too much time on the report?
- 4 *They could have prepared better if they'd had more time.*
Did they prepare as well as they wanted to?
- 5 *The team would have been stronger without him.*
Was the team as strong as it could be?
- 6 *Sylvia may have arrived by now.*
Has Sylvia arrived yet?
- 7 *Thomas should have reached Barcelona by now.*
Has Thomas reached Barcelona?
- 8 *They couldn't have done enough research as the launch was a failure.*
Did the team do enough research?

B Which of these statements uses the modal perfect correctly? Suggest alternative modals for the incorrect statements.

- 1 It's too late to apply for the job now. You must have applied last month.
- 2 It was silly to leave your wallet in the hotel room. It would have been stolen.
- 3 The fire in our showroom last night could have destroyed all our merchandise.
- 4 He bought the land cheaply and sold it at a higher price to developers, so he needn't have made a lot of money.
- 5 Gerry wasn't at the meeting. He might have been delayed in traffic.
- 6 You couldn't have seen Mr Lebeau at the conference because he was in Hong Kong at the time.
- 7 He looked exhausted when he arrived. He should have had a bad flight.
- 8 He was charismatic and decisive. We must have made him team leader.

II. Rewrite the phrases in brackets using *could have*, *should have* or *might have*. More than one correct answer is possible.

- 1 That wasn't a very sensible decision. _____
(*You ran the risk of being dismissed*).
- 2 What a pity you didn't come five minutes earlier. _____
_____ (*You have missed the chance of seeing Anne*).
- 3 _____ (*You were wrong to speak*) to her like that.
- 4 _____ (*I'm irritated you didn't let me know*) you were coming.
- 5 _____ (*It was a mistake not to send*) the price list with the catalogue.
- 6 _____ (*We're lucky we didn't lose*) the contract.
- 7 _____ (*I'm irritated that you didn't call*) to say the meeting had been cancelled.

III. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 Don't phone Ann now. (she might / have / lunch)

- 2 I ate too much. Now I feel sick. (I shouldn't / eat / so much)

- 3 I wonder why Tom didn't phone me. (he must / forget)

- 4 Why did you go home so early? (you needn't / go home so early)

- 5 You've signed the contract. (it / can't / change now)

- 6 He was in prison at the time that the crime was committed, so (he couldn't / do / it) _____.
- 7 I'm surprised nobody told you that the road was very dangerous. (you should / warn) _____
- 8 George was in a strange mood yesterday. (he might not / feel / very well)
