

MODAL PERFECT

form: MODAL VERB + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

Past modals are used

⇒ to express speculations or deductions about events in the past

*What do you think has happened? Well, they **may / might / could have missed** the train.*

⇒ to show a stronger degree of certainty

*John **must have been fired** – his desk 's gone.
It **can 't have been** Joe you saw – he 's in Mongolia.*

⇒ to express irritation

*She **could / might have given** me the information but she didn 't bother.*

⇒ to express missed opportunities

*She **could / might have had** a brilliant career but she gave it all up for love.*

⇒ to express criticism or comments on past actions

*The report **should have been submitted** a lot earlier.
He **shouldn 't have resigned** without having another job to go to.
You **ought to have made** a reservation – there are no seats left now.*

⇒ note the difference between **NEEDN 'T HAVE and DIDN 'T NEED TO**

*I **didn 't need to come** into the office because there was no work for me to do, so I stayed at home. (= > So didn 't go there.)*

*I **needn 't have gone** into the office because there was no work for me to do when I got there. (= > I went there, but it wasn 't necessary.)*