

Meaning of Modals

Present	<i>Past</i>
may might = 50% guess could	may have might have could have
must = 90% guess	must have
should = advice = expectation	should have
couldn't = impossible	couldn't have
must = necessary have to	had to
don't have to = necessary	<p>Note: <i>must have</i> is not the past tense for this. <i>Must have</i> is a past guess.</p>
	didn't have to
	<p>IMPORTANT</p>
	must have + p.p.
	had to + bare infinitive

Various Meanings of Modals

Tell the meaning of each modal and the time (tense).

1. The bus should be here soon.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

2. He might be at the library.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

3. I could speak English when I was a child.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

4. You should have been there.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

5. You must be there exactly at 9:00.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

6. The plane should have been here an hour ago.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

7. You must be happy about the news.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

8. He may have been upset.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

9. Pierre must have gone back to France.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

10. You shouldn't have eaten so much pizza.

Meaning: _____

Time: _____

11. John couldn't have been here.

Meaning: _____ Time: _____

12. The company might fire him if his work doesn't improve.

Meaning: _____ Time: _____

13. The baby should finally be asleep.

Meaning: _____ Time: _____

14. You must be excited about your trip.

Meaning: _____ Time: _____

15. You didn't have to pick me up.

Meaning: _____ Time: _____