

Modals in the Past - Advanced English Grammar

Modal perfect forms help us talk about past possibility, deduction, criticism, regret and unreal situations

A. Complete the sentences with a modal in the past

1. The car _____ (can't / break) again. I got it fixed a few days ago.
2. I _____ (shouldn't / say) that. It was rude.
3. It _____ (can't / rain) at that moment. I was outside.
4. She can't find her purse. It _____ (could / steal).
5. Hundreds of people _____ (could / injure) in that accident.
6. It _____ (must / rain) last night. Look at all the water!
7. The house _____ (should / paint) last week.
8. A lot of people _____ (could / die) if the fire hadn't been put out on time.
9. He _____ (should / go) to the concert. He missed it!
10. The children _____ (must / tell) a scary story. That's why they cried.
11. Look at their faces! Something _____ (must / go) wrong.
12. I _____ (could / do) any of this if you hadn't helped me.

B. Choose the meaning

1. She must have forgotten the meeting.
2. He could have called me. 3. You should have told me.
3. You should have told me.
4. They can't have known about it.