

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

Read each statement. Write **True** or **False**.

1. "Must have" and "might have" express the same level of certainty about the past.

Answer: _____

2. "Can't have" is used when the speaker is almost certain a past action did not occur.

Answer: _____

3. "Needn't have" always implies the action was carried out unnecessarily.

Answer: _____

4. "Was able to" and "could" are always interchangeable for past ability.

Answer: _____

5. "Had better" always refers to a specific, immediate situation rather than general advice.

Answer: _____

6. Modal passives are most common in informal spoken English.

Answer: _____

7. "Might have been" is a past passive modal expressing uncertain past possibility.

Answer: _____

8. "Had better not" is used to give urgent negative advice with an implicit warning.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct option. Circle your answer.

1. All the chairs are pushed back — the session ____ finished early.

(must have / might have / can't have)

2. She ____ have submitted it under a different name — it's simply not in the system.

(can't / must / might)

3. You ____ ordered a replacement — I managed to fix the original.

(needn't have / didn't need to / had better)

4. Against all expectations, the rescue team ____ reach the survivors.

(were able to / had better / must have)

5. Complaints ____ be logged within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

(must be / had better / were able to)

6. You ___ agree to anything before checking it with the legal team first.

(had better not / needn't have / can't have)

7. The error ___ been introduced when the database was migrated.

(might have / must / can't)

8. The original decision ___ been taken without full information.

(may have been / must be / had better)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to the correct description (A–H). Write the letter.

Sentences	Descriptions
1. The records have been altered — someone must have had access to the database.	A. A modal passive expressing a mandatory process — the agent is not specified.
2. They can't have reviewed the proposal — they've only had it a few minutes.	B. A specific, difficult outcome that was successfully achieved in a particular situation.
3. You needn't have driven all the way here — we could have contacted us by email.	C. A need to do something about a past action, inferred from physical evidence.
4. After eleven hours of surgery, the medical team was able to stabilise the patient.	D. A modal passive expressing a recommended action — the focus is on the action.
5. You had better confirm your attendance in writing before Friday.	E. A modal passive expressing a recommended action — the focus is on the action.
6. All vehicles must be registered before entering the secure zone.	F. A modal passive expressing a recommended action — the focus is on the action.
7. The leak might have been caused by a fracture in the old pipe.	G. A past possibility that the speaker considers plausible but is not certain.
8. The draft agreement should be reviewed by both parties before signing.	H. An action was taken that turned out to be unnecessary — the effort was wasted.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

1. The account is showing a zero balance — ___ have been cleared overnight.

(it must have / it might have / it can't have)

2. You ___ prepared a full risk register — a brief summary would have been enough.

(needn't have / didn't need to / had better)

3. Under enormous political pressure, the negotiators ___ broker a ceasefire.

(were able to / had better / must have)

4. Sensitive documents ___ be disposed of securely and never left unattended.

(must be / had better / were able to)

5. You ___ disclose this before entering into any contractual arrangement.

(had better / needn't have / can't have)

6. She ___ have received the briefing — it was sent to her personal address.

(can't have / must have / might have)

7. The contamination ___ occurred during routine maintenance the previous month.

(might have / must / can't)

8. The original manuscript ___ copied without the publisher's permission.

(may have been / must be / had better)

Exercise 5 — Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. must / The / have / been / left / deliberately / door / open

2. have / You / needn't / a / full / sent / transcript / — a / summary / was / fine

3. were / able / to / The / team / submit / on / time / despite / the / setbacks

4. had / better / We / check / before / this / submitting / again

5. be / Findings / must / reported / to / the / regulator / within / seven / days

6. have / She / can't / read / the / — she / agreement / signed / it / immediately

7. might / The / have / signal / been / by / the / blocked / nearby / structure

8. had / better / not / You / share / this / it's / before / verified

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

Read each sentence carefully. Write it in the correct column.

Word bank: The figures ____ have been transposed — the totals don't add up at all. | She ____ have known about the meeting — she organised it herself. | The connection ____ have dropped during the upload — the file looks incomplete. | You ____ have sent a follow-up — they acknowledged receipt straight away. | I ____ set a reminder — the alert came through automatically. | You ____ have prepared a handout — we projected everything from the laptop. | Working with limited equipment, the scientists ____ isolate the compound. | Despite the hostile conditions, the expedition ____ complete its primary objective. | The first responders ____ contain the situation before it spread further. | All waste materials ____ be disposed of in accordance with site regulations. | You ____ proceed without board approval — the risk is simply too high. | Staff ____ be notified of any changes to the shift rota at least 48 hours in advance.

Past Deduction	Necessary or Not Necessary?	Specific Past Achievement	Passive or Strong Advice?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

A: Someone accessed the restricted folder last night. ____ someone with elevated permissions.

(must have been / might have been / can't have been)

B: It ____ have been our team — none of us were in the building.

(can't have been / must have been / might have been)

A: You ____ revoked all the access keys — just the ones assigned to external contractors.

(needn't have / had better / must have)

B: The IT manager ____ trace the entry point to a dormant legacy account.

(were able to / must have / had better)

A: That account ____ deactivated when the previous contractor left.

(should have been / had better / were able to)

B: You ____ brief the security team before this goes any further.

(had better / needn't have / can't have)

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. "Must have" and "might have" express the same level of certainty about the past.
✓ False
2. "Can't have" is used when the speaker is almost certain a past action did not occur.
✓ True
3. "Needn't have" always implies the action was carried out unnecessarily.
✓ True
4. "Was able to" and "could" are always interchangeable for past ability.
✓ False
5. "Had better" always refers to a specific, immediate situation rather than general advice.
✓ True
6. Modal passives are most common in informal spoken English.
✓ False
7. "Might have been" is a past passive modal expressing uncertain past possibility.
✓ True
8. "Had better not" is used to give urgent negative advice with an implicit warning.
✓ True

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. All the chairs are pushed back — the session ____ finished early.
✓ must have
2. She ____ have submitted it under a different name — it's simply not in the system.
✓ can't
3. You ____ ordered a replacement — I managed to fix the original.
✓ needn't have
4. Against all expectations, the rescue team ____ reach the survivors.
✓ were able to
5. Complaints ____ be logged within 48 hours of the incident occurring.
✓ must be
6. You ____ agree to anything before checking it with the legal team first.

✓ **had better not**

7. The error ____ been introduced when the database was migrated.

✓ **might have**

8. The original decision ____ been taken without full information.

✓ **may have been**

Exercise 3 — Matching

1. The records have been altered — someone must have had administrative access.

✓ **C — A near-certain conclusion about a past action, inferred from physical evidence.**

2. They can't have reviewed the proposal — they've only had it for ten minutes.

✓ **E — A near-certain conclusion that a past event could not have taken place.**

3. You needn't have driven all the way here — we could have done this over the phone.

✓ **H — An action was taken that turned out to be unnecessary — the effort was wasted.**

4. After eleven hours of surgery, the medical team was able to stabilise the patient.

✓ **B — A specific, difficult outcome that was successfully achieved in a particular situation.**

5. You had better confirm your attendance in writing before end of day.

✓ **F — Urgent advice with an implicit warning — failure to act may have consequences.**

6. All vehicles must be registered before entering the secure compound.

✓ **A — A modal passive expressing a mandatory process — the agent is not specified.**

7. The leak might have been caused by a fracture in the older pipework.

✓ **G — A past possibility that the speaker considers plausible but is not certain about.**

8. The draft agreement should be reviewed by both parties before signing.

✓ **D — A present modal passive expressing a recommended action — the focus is on the document.**

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. The account is showing a zero balance — ____ have been cleared overnight.

✓ **it must have**

2. You ____ prepared a full risk register — a brief summary would have been enough.

✓ **needn't have**

3. Under enormous political pressure, the negotiators ____ broker a ceasefire.

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4. Sensitive documents ____ be disposed of securely and never left unattended.

✓ **must be**

5. You ____ disclose this before entering into any contractual arrangement.
✓ **had better**
6. She ____ have received the briefing — it was sent to her personal address.
✓ **can't have**
7. The contamination ____ occurred during routine maintenance the previous month.
✓ **might have**
8. The original manuscript ____ copied without the publisher's permission.
✓ **may have been**
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Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ **The door must have been left open deliberately**
 2. ✓ **You needn't have sent a full transcript — a summary was fine**
 3. ✓ **The team were able to submit on time despite the setbacks**
 4. ✓ **We had better check this before submitting again**
 5. ✓ **Findings must be reported to the regulator within seven days**
 6. ✓ **She can't have read the agreement — she signed it immediately**
 7. ✓ **The signal might have been blocked by the nearby structure**
 8. ✓ **You had better not share this before it's verified**
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Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Past Deduction:

- ✓ **The figures ____ have been transposed — the totals don't add up at all.**
- ✓ **She ____ have known about the meeting — she organised it herself.**
- ✓ **The connection ____ have dropped during the upload — the file looks incomplete.**

Necessary or Not Necessary?:

- ✓ **You ____ have sent a follow-up — they acknowledged receipt straight away.**
- ✓ **I ____ set a reminder — the alert came through automatically.**
- ✓ **You ____ have prepared a handout — we projected everything from the laptop.**

Specific Past Achievement:

- ✓ **Working with limited equipment, the scientists ____ isolate the compound.**
- ✓ **Despite the hostile conditions, the expedition ____ complete its primary objective.**
- ✓ **The first responders ____ contain the situation before it spread further.**

Passive or Strong Advice?:

- ✓ **All waste materials ____ be disposed of in accordance with site regulations.**

- ✓ You ____ proceed without board approval — the risk is simply too high.
 - ✓ Staff ____ be notified of any changes to the shift rota at least 48 hours in advance.
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Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: Someone accessed the restricted folder last night. ____ someone with elevated permissions.
✓ **must have been**
2. B: It ____ have been our team — none of us were in the building.
✓ **can't have been**
3. A: You ____ revoked all the access keys — just the ones assigned to external contractors.
✓ **needn't have**
4. B: The IT manager ____ trace the entry point to a dormant legacy account.
✓ **were able to**
5. A: That account ____ deactivated when the previous contractor left.
✓ **should have been**
6. B: You ____ brief the security team before this goes any further.
✓ **had better**