

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

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

1. "Must have" expresses a stronger degree of certainty than "might have".

Answer: _____

2. "Needn't have" and "didn't need to" are always interchangeable.

Answer: _____

3. "Was/were able to" is preferred over "could" for a specific, achieved past result.

Answer: _____

4. "Had better" is suitable for giving general, long-term advice.

Answer: _____

5. In a modal passive, the focus shifts to the action rather than the person performing it.

Answer: _____

6. "Can't have" expresses near certainty that a past event occurred.

Answer: _____

7. "Should have been" + past participle is an example of a past modal passive.

Answer: _____

8. "Had better not" carries an implicit warning about the consequences of the action.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct option. Circle your answer.

1. The timestamp is from 3am — an automated process ____ triggered the backup.

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

2. He ____ have read the manual — he keeps making the same basic errors.

(can't / must / might)

3. You ____ printed two copies — one would have been more than enough.

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

4. Working overnight with minimal equipment, the technicians ____ restore full connectivity.

(were able to / had better / must have)

5. Any proposed amendments ____ be tabled at least five working days before the meeting.

(must be / had better / were able to)

6. You ____ make any commitments on this before you've spoken to the CFO.
(had better not / needn't have / can't have)
7. The variance in the sample ____ been introduced by an error in the collection protocol.
(might have / must / can't)
8. The original submission ____ have been received — the confirmation number exists in our records.
(must have / can't have / might have)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

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

Sentences	Descriptions
1. The safe is open and the documents are gone — someone must have broken in.	A. The speaker performed an action that turned out to be unnecessary.
2. She can't have reviewed the data — her comments don't reflect the situation.	B. Enough information is provided to give specific advice with an implied consequence if ignored.
3. You needn't have rearranged your whole schedule — the meeting was cancelled.	C. A past modal phrase expressing criticism — something expected did not happen.
4. After extensive delays, the legal team was able to secure an injunction.	D. In a negative context, a certain conclusion that a specific past action did not take place.
5. You had better double-check the references before the thesis is submitted.	E. A past modal phrase expressing a successful outcome that was achieved despite difficulties.
6. All supporting evidence must be submitted alongside the original application.	F. A modal phrase stating a mandatory requirement — the agent is unsupervised.
7. The anomaly might have been present in earlier versions of the data.	G. A past possibility that the speaker considers plausible but remains uncertain.
8. The decision should have been escalated to senior management before implementation.	H. A modal phrase based on direct physical evidence.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

1. The vault was sealed from inside — ____ used an override code to lock it.
(they must have / they might have / they can't have)
2. You ____ have rescheduled the whole day — the session only took forty minutes.
(needn't / didn't need to / had better)
3. With no external support, the local team ____ stabilise the situation before reinforcements arrived.
(was able to / had better / must have)
4. All proposed rule changes ____ be circulated to members at least 21 days before the vote.
(must be / had better / were able to)
5. You ____ authorise this expenditure without a valid purchase order.
(had better not / needn't have / can't have)
6. She ____ have seen the notice — it was posted on the main board all week.
(must have / can't have / might have)
7. The interference ____ been caused by the new transmitter installed on the roof.
(might have / must / can't)
8. The original approval ____ granted without proper due diligence.

(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 / accessed / remotely / server

2. have / You / needn't / a / full / prepared / dossier / — a / briefing / note / was / enough

3. were / able / to / The / investigators / reconstruct / the / chain / of / events

4. had / better / You / review / the / before / clauses / penalties / any / signing

5. must / be / All / returns / filed / by / the / statutory / deadline

6. have / She / can't / the / authorised / transfer / — she / no / had / signing / rights

7. might / The / have / gap / in / coverage / the / introduced / been / during / update

8. had / better / not / We / proceed / without / a / written / indemnity

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

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

Word bank: The timestamp ___ have been altered — the metadata is inconsistent. | She ___ have overlooked it — she reviews every submission line by line. | The signal ___ have been intercepted — the encryption was outdated. | You ___ have cc'd the whole team — it was intended for the client only. | I ___ book a room — there was plenty of space in the open-plan area. | You ___ have attended in person — a written submission was accepted. | With no prior agreement, the two sides ___ reach a preliminary accord. | The legal team ___ have the injunction granted before the story went to press. | Despite the time pressure, the development team ___ push a working patch. | Personal data ___ be retained for no longer than is strictly necessary. | You ___ release any of this externally before the board has reviewed it. | All test results ___ be countersigned by a qualified assessor.

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: The internal review found gaps in the procurement records. ___ processed outside the normal approval chain.

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

B: Some of these ___ have been authorised by the finance team — they would never have approved amounts this large.

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

A: You ___ pulled every record manually — we can run a system query for most of this.

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

B: Either way, the compliance officer ___ identify three separate instances of irregularity.

(was able to / must have / had better)

A: All of this ___ flagged during the last internal audit.

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

B: We ___ brief the audit committee before this reaches the press.

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

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. "Must have" expresses a stronger degree of certainty than "might have".
✓ True
2. "Needn't have" and "didn't need to" are always interchangeable.
✓ False
3. "Was/were able to" is preferred over "could" for a specific, achieved past result.
✓ True
4. "Had better" is suitable for giving general, long-term advice.
✓ False
5. In a modal passive, the focus shifts to the action rather than the person performing it.
✓ True
6. "Can't have" expresses near certainty that a past event occurred.
✓ False
7. "Should have been" + past participle is an example of a past modal passive.
✓ True
8. "Had better not" carries an implicit warning about the consequences of the action.
✓ True

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. The timestamp is from 3am — an automated process ____ triggered the backup.
✓ must have
2. He ____ have read the manual — he keeps making the same basic errors.
✓ can't
3. You ____ printed two copies — one would have been more than enough.
✓ needn't have
4. Working overnight with minimal equipment, the technicians ____ restore full connectivity.
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5. Any proposed amendments ____ be tabled at least five working days before the meeting.
✓ must be
6. You ____ make any commitments on this before you've spoken to the CFO.

✓ **had better not**

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✓ **must have**

Exercise 3 — Matching

1. The safe is open and the documents are gone — someone must have known the combination.

✓ **H — A near-certain past deduction based on direct physical evidence.**

2. She can't have reviewed the data — her comments don't reflect what's in the report.

✓ **D — A near-certain conclusion that a specific past action did not take place.**

3. You needn't have rearranged your whole schedule — the visit was cancelled an hour later.

✓ **A — The speaker performed an action that turned out to be unnecessary.**

4. After extensive delays, the legal team was able to secure an injunction.

✓ **E — A specific, successful outcome that was achieved despite difficulties.**

5. You had better double-check the references before the thesis is submitted.

✓ **B — Urgent, situation-specific advice with an implied consequence if ignored.**

6. All supporting evidence must be submitted alongside the original application.

✓ **F — A modal passive stating a mandatory requirement — the agent is unspecified.**

7. The anomaly might have been present in earlier versions of the data.

✓ **G — A past possibility that the speaker considers plausible but remains uncertain about.**

8. The decision should have been escalated to senior management before implementation.

✓ **C — A past modal passive expressing criticism — something expected did not happen.**

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. The vault was sealed from inside — ____ used an override code to lock it.

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7. The interference ___ been caused by the new transmitter installed on the roof.

✓ **might have**

8. The original approval ___ granted without proper due diligence.

✓ **may have been**

Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ **The server must have been accessed remotely**

2. ✓ **You needn't have prepared a full dossier — a briefing note was enough**

3. ✓ **The investigators were able to reconstruct the chain of events**

4. ✓ **You had better review the penalty clauses before signing anything**

5. ✓ **All returns must be filed by the statutory deadline**

6. ✓ **She can't have authorised the transfer — she had no signing rights**

7. ✓ **The gap in coverage might have been introduced during the update**

8. ✓ **We had better not proceed without a written indemnity**

Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Past Deduction:

✓ **The timestamp ___ have been altered — the metadata is inconsistent.**

✓ **She ___ have overlooked it — she reviews every submission line by line.**

✓ **The signal ___ have been intercepted — the encryption was outdated.**

Necessary or Not Necessary?:

✓ **You ___ have cc'd the whole team — it was intended for the client only.**

✓ **I ___ book a room — there was plenty of space in the open-plan area.**

✓ **You ___ have attended in person — a written submission was accepted.**

Specific Past Achievement:

✓ **With no prior agreement, the two sides ___ reach a preliminary accord.**

✓ **The legal team ___ have the injunction granted before the story went to press.**

✓ **Despite the time pressure, the development team ___ push a working patch.**

Passive or Strong Advice?:

✓ **Personal data ___ be retained for no longer than is strictly necessary.**

✓ **You ___ release any of this externally before the board has reviewed it.**

✓ All test results ____ be countersigned by a qualified assessor.

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: The internal review found gaps in the procurement records. ____ processed outside the normal approval chain.

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2. B: Some of these ____ have been authorised by the finance team — they would never have approved amounts this large.

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3. A: You ____ pulled every record manually — we can run a system query for most of this.

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4. B: Either way, the compliance officer ____ identify three separate instances of irregularity.

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5. A: All of this ____ flagged during the last internal audit.

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6. B: We ____ brief the audit committee before this reaches the press.

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