

D

We use **could have (done)** to talk about the past. Compare:

- ☐ I'm so tired, I **could sleep** for a week. (*now*)
- I was so tired, I **could have slept** for a week. (*past*)
- ☐ The situation is bad, but it **could be** worse. (*now*)
- The situation was bad, but it **could have been** worse. (*past*)

Something **could have** happened = it was possible but did *not* happen:

- ☐ Why did you stay at a hotel when you were in Paris? You **could have stayed** with Julia. (you didn't stay with her)
- ☐ I didn't know that you wanted to go to the concert. I **could have got** you a ticket. (I didn't get you a ticket)
- ☐ Dave was lucky. He **could have hurt** himself when he fell, but he's OK.

27.3 Complete the sentences. Use could or could have + a suitable verb.

- 1 A: What shall we do this evening?
B: I don't mind. We could go to the cinema.
- 2 A: I had a very boring evening at home yesterday.
B: Why did you stay at home? You out with us.
- 3 A: There's an interesting job advertised in the paper. You for it.
B: What sort of job? Show me the advertisement.
- 4 A: How was your exam? Was it difficult?
B: It wasn't so bad. It worse.
- 5 A: I got very wet walking home in the rain last night.
B: Why did you walk? You a taxi.
- 6 A: Where shall we meet tomorrow?
B: Well, I to your house if you like.

27.4 Complete the sentences. Use couldn't or couldn't have + these verbs (in the correct form):

~~be~~ be come find get ~~live~~ wear

- 1 I couldn't live in a big city. I'd hate it.
- 2 We had a really good holiday. It couldn't have been better.
- 3 I that hat. I'd look silly and people would laugh at me.
- 4 We managed to find the restaurant you recommended, but we it without the map that you drew for us.
- 5 Paul has to get up at 4 o'clock every morning. I don't know how he does it. I up at that time every day.
- 6 The staff at the hotel were really nice when we stayed there last summer. They more helpful.
- 7 A: I tried to phone you last week. We had a party and I wanted to invite you.
B: That was nice of you, but I anyway. I was away all last week.

Must and can't

A

Study this example:


You can use **must** to say that you believe something is certain:

- ☐ You've been travelling all day. You **must be** tired. (Travelling is tiring and you've been travelling all day, so you **must be** tired.)
- ☐ 'Jim is a hard worker.' 'Jim? You **must be** joking. He doesn't do anything.'
- ☐ Carol **must get** very bored in her job. She does the same thing every day.
- ☐ I'm sure Sally gave me her phone number. I **must have** it somewhere.

You can use **can't** to say that you believe something is not possible:

- ☐ You've just had lunch. You **can't be** hungry already. (People are not normally hungry just after eating a meal. You've just eaten, so you **can't be** hungry.)
- ☐ They haven't lived here for very long. They **can't know** many people.

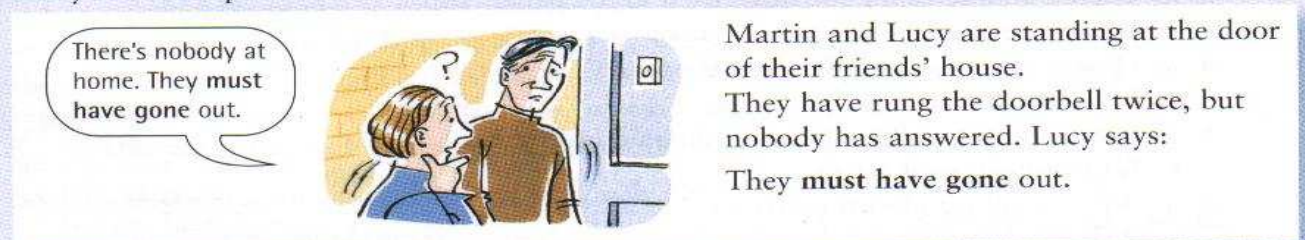
Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	must	be (tired / hungry / at work etc.)
	can't	be (doing / going / joking etc.)
		do / get / know / have etc.

B

For the past we use **must have (done)** and **can't have (done)**.

Study this example:



- ☐ I didn't hear the phone. I **must have been** asleep.
- ☐ 'I've lost one of my gloves.' 'You **must have dropped** it somewhere.'
- ☐ Sue hasn't contacted me. She **can't have got** my message.
- ☐ Tom walked into a wall. He **can't have been looking** where he was going.

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	must	have	been (asleep / at work etc.)
	can't		been (doing / looking etc.)
			gone / got / known etc.

You can use **couldn't have** instead of **can't have**:

- ☐ Sue **couldn't have** got my message.
- ☐ Tom **couldn't have been looking** where he was going.

Can't ('I can't swim' etc.) → Unit 26 Must ('I must go' etc.) → Units 31–32
 Modal verbs (can/could/will/would etc.) → Appendix 4 American English → Appendix 7

28.1 Put in **must** or **can't**.

- 1 You've been travelling all day. You must be tired.
- 2 That restaurant be very good. It's always full of people.
- 3 That restaurant be very good. It's always empty.
- 4 I'm sure I gave you the key. You have it. Have you looked in your bag?
- 5 You're going on holiday next week. You be looking forward to it.
- 6 It rained every day during their holiday, so they have had a very nice time.
- 7 Congratulations on passing your exam. You be very pleased.
- 8 You got here very quickly. You have walked very fast.
- 9 Bill and Sue always travel business class, so they be short of money.

28.2 Complete each sentence with a verb (one or two words) in the correct form.

- 1 I've lost one of my gloves. I must have dropped it somewhere.
- 2 They haven't lived here for very long. They can't know many people.
- 3 Ted isn't at work today. He must ill.
- 4 Ted wasn't at work last week. He must ill.
- 5 (*the doorbell rings*) I wonder who that is. It can't Mary. She's still at work at this time.
- 6 Sarah knows a lot about films. She must to the cinema a lot.
- 7 Look. James is putting on his hat and coat. He must out.
- 8 I left my bike outside the house last night and now it has gone. Somebody must it.
- 9 Amy was in a very difficult situation when she lost her job. It can't easy for her.
- 10 There is a man walking behind us. He has been walking behind us for the last twenty minutes. He must us.

28.3 Read the situations and use the words in brackets to write sentences with **must have** and **can't have**.

- 1 The phone rang, but I didn't hear it. (I / asleep)
I must have been asleep.
- 2 Sue hasn't contacted me. (she / get / my message)
She can't have got my message.
- 3 The jacket you bought is very good quality. (it / very expensive)
.....
- 4 I haven't seen the people next door for ages. (they / go away)
.....
- 5 I can't find my umbrella. (I / leave / it in the restaurant last night)
.....
- 6 Dave, who is usually very friendly, walked past me without speaking. (he / see / me)
.....
- 7 There was a man standing outside the café. (he / wait / for somebody)
.....
- 8 Liz did the opposite of what I asked her to do. (she / understand / what I said)
.....
- 9 When I got back to my car, the door was unlocked. (I / forget / to lock it)
.....
- 10 I was woken up in the night by the noise next door. (the neighbours / have / a party)
.....
- 11 The light was red, but the car didn't stop. (the driver / see / the red light)
.....

Unit 29

May and might 1

A

Study this example situation:

You are looking for Bob. Nobody is sure where he is, but you get some suggestions.

Where's Bob?

He **may** be in his office.

(= perhaps he is in his office)

He **might** be having lunch.

(= perhaps he is having lunch)

Ask Ann. She **might** know.

(= perhaps she knows)

We use **may** or **might** to say that something is a possibility. Usually you can use **may** or **might**, so you can say:

- ☐ It **may** be true. or It **might** be true. (= perhaps it is true)
- ☐ She **might** know. or She **may** know.

The negative forms are **may not** and **might not** (or **mightn't**):

- ☐ It **may not** be true. (= perhaps it isn't true)
- ☐ She **might not** work here any more. (= perhaps she doesn't work here)

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	may might	(not)	be (true / in his office etc.) be (doing / working / having etc.) know / work / want etc.
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B

For the past we use **may have (done)** or **might have (done)**:

- ☐ A: I wonder why Kate didn't answer the phone.
B: She **may have been** asleep. (= perhaps she was asleep)
- ☐ A: I can't find my bag anywhere.
B: You **might have left** it in the shop. (= perhaps you left it in the shop)
- ☐ A: I was surprised that Kate wasn't at the meeting yesterday.
B: She **might not have known** about it. (= perhaps she didn't know)
- ☐ A: I wonder why David was in such a bad mood yesterday.
B: He **may not have been feeling** well. (= perhaps he wasn't feeling well)

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	may might	(not) have	been (asleep / at home etc.) been (doing / working / feeling etc.) known / had / wanted / left etc.
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C

Could is similar to **may** and **might**:

- ☐ It's a strange story, but it **could** be true. (= it may/might be true)
- ☐ You **could have left** your bag in the shop. (= you may/might have left it)

But **couldn't** (negative) is different from **may not** and **might not**. Compare:

- ☐ Sarah **couldn't have** got my message. Otherwise she would have replied.
(= it is not possible that she got my message)
- ☐ I wonder why Sarah hasn't replied to my message. I suppose she **might not have** got it.
(= perhaps she didn't get it, and perhaps she did)

29.1 Write these sentences in a different way using **might**.

- 1 Perhaps Helen is in her office. She might be in her office.
- 2 Perhaps Helen is busy.
- 3 Perhaps she is working.
- 4 Perhaps she wants to be alone.
- 5 Perhaps she was ill yesterday.
- 6 Perhaps she went home early.
- 7 Perhaps she had to go home early.
- 8 Perhaps she was working yesterday.

In sentences 9–11 use **might not**.

- 9 Perhaps she doesn't want to see me.
- 10 Perhaps she isn't working today.
- 11 Perhaps she wasn't feeling well yesterday.

29.2 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form.

- 1 'Where's Sam?' 'I'm not sure. He might be having lunch.'
- 2 'Who is that man with Emily?' 'I'm not sure. It might her brother.'
- 3 A: Who was the man we saw with Anna yesterday?
B: I'm not sure. It may her brother.
- 4 A: What are those people doing by the side of the road?
B: I don't know. They might for a bus.
- 5 'Do you have a stamp?' 'No, but ask Simon. He may one.'

29.3 Read the situation and make sentences from the words in brackets. Use **might**.

- 1 I can't find Jeff anywhere. I wonder where he is.
a (he / go / shopping) He might have gone shopping.
b (he / play / tennis) He might be playing tennis.
- 2 I'm looking for Sarah. Do you know where she is?
a (she / watch / TV / in her room)
b (she / go / out)
- 3 I can't find my umbrella. Have you seen it?
a (it / be / in the car)
b (you / leave / in the restaurant last night)
- 4 Why didn't Dave answer the doorbell? I'm sure he was at home at the time.
a (he / go / to bed early)
b (he / not / hear / the doorbell)
c (he / be / in the shower)

29.4 Complete the sentences using **might not have ... or couldn't have ...**.

- 1 A: Do you think Sarah got the message we sent her?
B: No, she would have contacted us. She couldn't have got it.
- 2 A: I was surprised Kate wasn't at the meeting. Perhaps she didn't know about it.
B: That's possible. She might not have known about it.
- 3 A: I wonder why they never replied to our letter. Do you think they received it?
B: Maybe not. They
- 4 A: I wonder how the fire started. Was it an accident?
B: No, the police say it
- 5 A: Mike says he needs to see you. He tried to find you yesterday.
B: Well, he very hard. I was in my office all day.
- 6 A: The man you spoke to – are you sure he was American?
B: No, I'm not sure. He

Should 1

A

You **should** do something = it is a good thing to do or the right thing to do. You can use **should** to give advice or to give an opinion:

- ☐ You look tired. You **should** go to bed.
- ☐ The government **should** do more to reduce crime.
- ☐ 'Should we invite Susan to the party?' 'Yes, I think we **should**.'

We often use **should** with **I think / I don't think / Do you think ... ?**:

- ☐ I **think** the government **should** do more to reduce crime.
- ☐ I **don't think** you **should** work so hard.
- ☐ 'Do you **think** I **should** apply for this job?' 'Yes, I **think** you **should**.'

You **shouldn't** do something = it isn't a good thing to do:

- ☐ You **shouldn't** believe everything you read in the newspapers.

Should is not as strong as **must** or **have to**:

- ☐ You **should** apologise. (= it would be a good thing to do)
- ☐ You **must** apologise. / You **have to** apologise. (= you have no alternative)

B

You can use **should** when something is not right or what you expect:

- ☐ I wonder where Tina is. She **should** be here by now.
(= she isn't here yet, and this is not normal)
- ☐ The price on this packet is wrong. It **should** be £2.50, not £3.50.
- ☐ That man on the motorbike **should** be wearing a helmet.

We also use **should** to say that we expect something to happen:

- ☐ She's been studying hard for the exam, so she **should** pass. (= I expect her to pass)
- ☐ There are plenty of hotels in the town. It **shouldn't** be difficult to find somewhere to stay.
(= I don't expect it to be difficult)



C

You **should have done** something = you didn't do it, but it would have been the right thing to do:

- ☐ You missed a great party last night. You **should have come**. Why didn't you?
(= you didn't come, but it would have been good to come)
- ☐ I wonder why they're so late. They **should have arrived** long ago.

You **shouldn't have done** something = you did it, but it was the wrong thing to do:

- ☐ I'm feeling sick. I **shouldn't have eaten** so much. (= I ate too much)
- ☐ She **shouldn't have been listening** to our conversation. It was private.
(= she was listening)

Compare **should** (do) and **should have** (done):

- ☐ You look tired. You **should** go to bed now.
- ☐ You went to bed very late last night. You **should have gone** to bed earlier.

D

Ought to ...

You can use **ought to** instead of **should** in the sentences on this page. We say 'ought to do' (with to):

- ☐ Do you think I **ought to** apply for this job? (= Do you think I **should** apply ... ?)
- ☐ Jack **ought not to** go to bed so late. (= Jack **shouldn't** go ...)
- ☐ It was a great party last night. You **ought to have come**.
- ☐ She's been studying hard for the exam, so she **ought to pass**.

Exercises

Unit 33

33.1 For each situation, write a sentence with **should** or **shouldn't** + the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| go away for a few days | go to bed so late | look for another job |
| put some pictures on the walls | take a photograph | use her car so much |
- Liz needs a change. She should go away for a few days.
 - Your salary is very low. You
 - Jack always has difficulty getting up. He
 - What a beautiful view! You
 - Sue drives everywhere. She never walks. She
 - Bill's room isn't very interesting.

33.2 Read the situations and write sentences with **I think/I don't think ... should ...**

- Peter and Cathy are planning to get married. You think it's a bad idea.
I don't think they should get married.
- Jane has a bad cold but plans to go out this evening. You don't think this is a good idea. You say to her:
- Peter needs a job. He's just seen an advertisement for a job which you think would be ideal for him, but he's not sure whether to apply or not. You say to him:
I think
- The government wants to increase taxes, but you don't think this is a good idea.
.....

33.3 Complete the sentences with **should (have) + the verb in brackets**.

- Diane should pass the exam. She's been studying very hard. (pass)
- You missed a great party last night. You should have come. (come)
- We don't see you enough. You and see us more often. (come)
- I'm in a difficult position. What do you think I ? (do)
- I'm sorry that I didn't take your advice. I what you said. (do)
- I'm playing tennis with Jane tomorrow. She – she's much better than me. (win)
- We lost the match, but we We were the better team. (win)
- 'Is Mike here yet?' 'Not yet, but he here soon.' (be)
- I posted the letter three days ago, so it by now. (arrive)

33.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **should/shouldn't**. Some of the sentences are past and some are present.

- I'm feeling sick. I ate too much. I shouldn't have eaten so much.
- That man on the motorbike isn't wearing a helmet. That's dangerous.
He should be wearing a helmet.
- When we got to the restaurant, there were no free tables. We hadn't reserved one.
We
- The notice says that the shop is open every day from 8.30. It is 9 o'clock now, but the shop isn't open yet.
- The speed limit is 30 miles an hour, but Kate is doing 50.
She
- Laura gave me her address, but I didn't write it down. Now I can't remember it.
I
- I was driving behind another car. Suddenly, the driver in front stopped without warning and I drove into the back of his car. It wasn't my fault.
The driver in front
- I walked into a wall. I was looking behind me. I wasn't looking where I was going.
.....