

Lesson A: Modals to Discuss the Past

A Read each sentence. Is the statement speculation or is it almost certain? Check the correct column.

	Speculation	Almost certain
1. Investigators believe that Easter Island must have had trees and palms.		✓
2. The Moai might have used logs to move the statues.		
3. The palms could have been used to make ropes.		
4. Wood from trees must have been used to make canoes.		
5. The Moai must have had some tools in order to carve the statues.		

B Circle the appropriate modals to complete the sentences.

1. I can't find that email Josh sent with the directions to his house. I (could | must) have deleted it.
2. The living room looks nice. Rahmina (might | must) have cleaned today.
3. The thief (could | must) have come in through the window, but we don't know.
4. Karina (may | must) have talked to Jim, but I'm not sure.
5. Your car (could | must) have been stolen or towed away.

C Complete each conversation with the correct modal *may*, *might*, *could*, or *must*.

1. **A:** Lily _____ have eaten the cake.
B: How do you know Lily ate it?
A: She was the only one at home this afternoon!
2. **A:** Someone sent me flowers!
B: How nice! Who sent them to you?
A: I don't know. There was no card ... but it _____ have been my parents.
3. **A:** It _____ have rained last night.
B: Why do you say that?
A: All of the cars parked on the street are wet.
4. **A:** Where did I catch this terrible cold?
B: You _____ have caught it from Diane. She was coughing on Monday.

A Read each sentence. Underline the noun clause.

1. Do you know how to get home?
2. I'm going to ask her how old she is.
3. Nobody heard what she said.
4. Where I'm going is none of your business.
5. Do you know what he wants?

B Complete each exchange with a noun clause.

1. **A:** Why did Michael call so early this morning?

B: I have no idea _____.

2. **A:** Where did Yu say the new office is going to be?

B: I don't remember _____.

3. **A:** Why did Emily cut her hair?

B: I don't know _____.

4. **A:** How long is this going to take?

B: I'm not sure _____.

5. **A:** How much is this going to cost?

B: I have no idea _____.

C Match the sentences.

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|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Jessica works with animals. _____ | a. In our lab we're studying what causes diabetes. |
| 2. We're researchers. _____ | b. She's interested in how they adapt to changing environments. |
| 3. Lee and Jack are firefighters. _____ | c. They work hard when there is an emergency or fire. |
| 4. The university is in Austin. _____ | d. She wants to learn about what a copyright protects. |
| 5. Amy is studying to be a lawyer. _____ | e. I don't know exactly where it is in the city. |

D Complete each noun clause with a *wh*- word.

1. I can't understand _____ you won't tell me the secret.
2. He can't remember exactly _____ the professor said about the assignment.
3. Nobody told me _____ the administration building is.
4. Lucy can't remember _____ she is supposed to meet her friends downtown.
5. I don't know _____ to fix the printer.