

UNIT 10

▶ Modal auxiliary verbs 2

Modal auxiliary verbs of probability in the past

- 1 All modal auxiliary verbs can be used with the perfect infinitive. They express the same varying degrees of certainty as explained on pp147–149. Again, *will have done* is the most certain, and *might/may/could have done* is the least certain.

'I met a girl from your class. Tall. Black hair.' *'That'll have been Sonya.'*

It must have been a good film. Everyone was laughing their heads off.

The match can't have been any good. Nobody stayed till the end.

Where's Pete? He should have been here ages ago!

He may have got lost.

He might have decided not to come.

He could have had an accident.

- 2 *Would have thought* is common to express an assumption or supposition.

I'd have thought they'd be here by now. Where are they?

You'd have thought she'd remember my birthday, wouldn't you?

Wouldn't you have thought they'd ring if there was a problem?

Other uses of modal verbs in the past

should have done

- 1 *Should have done* can express advice or criticism about a past event. The sentence expresses what is contrary to the facts.

You should have listened to my advice. (You didn't listen.)

I shouldn't have lied to you. I'm sorry. (I did lie.)

You shouldn't have told her you hated her. (You did tell her.)

- 2 Look at these sentences.

You should have been here yesterday!

You should have seen his face!

Should have done is used here for comic effect. The suggestion is *because it was so funny!*

could have done

- 1 *Could have done* is used to express an unrealized past ability. Someone was able to do something in the past, but didn't do it.

I could have gone to university, but I didn't want to.

We could have won the match. We didn't try hard enough.

I could have told you that Chris wouldn't come. He hates reunions.

I was so angry with her, I could have killed her!

- 2 It is used to express a past possibility that didn't happen.

You fool! You could have killed yourself!

We were lucky. We could have been caught in that traffic jam.

When I took the burnt meal out of the oven, I could have cried!

- 3 It is used to criticize people for not doing things.

You could have told me that Sue and Jim had left!

I've been cleaning the house for hours. You could at least have done your bedroom!

3 Answer these questions about Ötzi using the words in *italics*.

1 What was he?

a hunter/shepherd *could*

2 What was he doing in the mountains?

looking after his sheep/got lost *might*

3 Where did he live? What did he wear?

a cave animal furs *must*

4 How did he die?

asleep/cold and starvation *may*

5 Was it a good idea to go so high?

so high on his own *shouldn't*

protective clothing *should*

6 What did he eat?

a lot of meat and berries *must*

crops like cereals to make bread *might can't*

meat *'d have thought*

7 Did they travel much?

(not) much at all *wouldn't have thought*

stayed in the same area *must*

8 How old was he when he died?

between forty and forty-five *could*

quite old in those days *must*

4 Listen and check. Practise the sentences, paying attention to contracted forms and weak forms.

which almost have to be quite old in
B I've bought the magazine New Science
can read all about the results.
A **the answer** red. I
downloaded them from the Internet
look at them.

T 10.3

1 What was he?

He could have been a hunter, or he could have been a shepherd.

2 What was he doing in the mountains?

He might have been looking after his sheep, or he might have got lost.

3 Where did he live? What did he wear?

He must have lived in a cave.

He must have worn animal furs.

4 How did he die?

He may have fallen asleep.

He may have died of cold and starvation.

5 Was it a good idea to go so high?

He shouldn't have gone so high on his own.

He should have worn protective clothing.

6 What did he eat?

He must have eaten a lot of meat and berries.

They might have grown crops like cereals to make bread.

They can't have grown crops.

I'd have thought they just ate meat.

7 Did they travel much?

I wouldn't have thought they travelled much at all.

They must have stayed in the same area.

8 How old was he when he died?

He could have been between forty and forty-five.

That must have been quite old in those days.

PRACTICE

Discussing grammar

1 Underline the correct answer.

- 1 Sorry I'm late. I should have gone/had to go to the post office.
- 2 I looked for Pearl but I couldn't find/couldn't have found her.
- 3 I don't know where Paul is. He had to go/must have gone home early.
- 4 I had to work/must have worked hard when I was at school.
- 5 You needn't have said/shouldn't have said anything to Pam about her birthday picnic. It was going to be a surprise.
- 6 You needn't have bought/couldn't have bought a new vacuum cleaner. I managed to fix the old one.
- 7 You should have asked/must have asked me earlier. I might have given/would have given you a lift.
- 8 You can't have done/needn't have done your homework already! You only started five minutes ago.
- 9 You could have told/must have told me the lesson had been cancelled! I shouldn't have got/wouldn't have got up so early.
- 10 You were lucky to get out of the car unharmed. You would have been/could have been badly hurt.

2 Complete the sentences with a modal verb in the past.

- 1 I *did* tell you about the exam. You _____ listening.
- 2 Thanks so much for all your help. I _____ managed without you.
- 3 Flowers, for me! Oh, that's so kind, but really you _____.
- 4 Come on! We're only five minutes late. The film _____ started yet.
- 5 I don't believe that Kathy's quitting school. She _____ told me, I know she would.
- 6 We raced to get to the airport on time, but we _____ worried. The flight was delayed.
- 7 We've got a letter here that isn't for us. The postman _____ delivered it by mistake.
- 8 You _____ gone swimming in such rough sea. You _____ drowned!

T 10.4 Listen and check. Practise the sentences with a partner.

N

3



the answer

T 10.4

- 1 I did tell you about the exam. You **can't** have been listening.
- 2 Thanks so much for all your help. I **couldn't** have managed without you.
- 3 Flowers, for me! That's so kind, but really you **shouldn't** have.
- 4 Come on! We're only five minutes late. The film **won't** have started yet.
- 5 I don't believe that Kathy's quitting school. She'd **have** told me, I know she would.
- 6 We raced to get to the airport on time, but we **needn't** have worried. The flight was delayed.
- 7 We've got a letter here that isn't for us. The postman **must** have delivered it by mistake.
- 8 You **shouldn't** have gone swimming in such rough sea. You **could** have drowned!

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

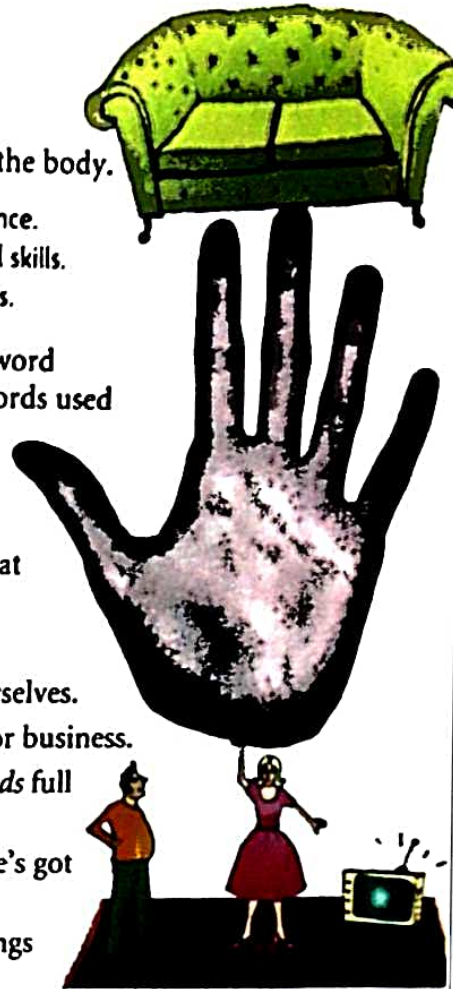
Metaphors and idioms – the body

1 Complete the sentences with a part of the body.

Your brain is associated with intelligence.
Your hands are associated with manual skills.
Your heart is associated with emotions.

2 In which one of these sentences is the word in italics used literally? Rephrase the words used metaphorically.

- 1 Can you give me a *hand* to move this sofa? It's so heavy.
- 2 She's so clever. She's *heading* for great things in life.
- 3 But she's not at all *big-headed*.
- 4 We shook *hands* and introduced ourselves.
- 5 My daughter has a very good *head* for business.
- 6 I'd offer to help, but I've got my *hands* full at the moment.
- 7 I know she shouts a lot, but really she's got a *heart* of gold.
- 8 We had a *heart-to-heart* talk, and things are much clearer now.
- 9 My parents wanted me to be a lawyer, but my *heart* wasn't in it. Now I'm a journalist.



3 Complete the sentences with one of these expressions.

⁵ face the fact ³ putting a brave face on it ¹ on its last legs ² goes to their head
⁶ pulling your leg ⁴ finding my feet ⁷ a sharp tongue

- 1 My car's done over 200,000 kilometres. It's _____ now. I'll have to buy a new one.
- 2 With so many celebrities, success _____ and they start to believe they're really special.
- 3 She's being very courageous and _____ on it, but I know she's in a lot of pain.
- 4 I'm in my first term at uni, and it's all a bit strange, but I'm slowly _____.
- 5 I'm nearly seventy-five. I simply have to _____ that I'm not as young as I was.
- 6 'Oh no! I've forwarded your email complaining about work to the boss!' 'Are you serious?' 'No, I'm just _____.'
- 7 'Sue says some really cruel things.' 'Yes, she's got _____.'

4 **T 10.8** Listen to three conversations. Replace some of the phrases used with an expression on this page.

T 10.9 Listen and check.

5 Look up another part of the body in your dictionary. Find one or two useful idioms or metaphorical uses. Explain them to the rest of the class.