

Modals and Modal Perfects

A Match the modals or modal perfects in I with their uses in II.

- I
1. Shall I help you with that heavy bag?
 2. You should have done all the homework.
 3. She didn't answer the phone so she must have left.
 4. I need to clean my room. I promised my mum that I would.
 5. I think that they might have left.
 6. Would you sign your name here, please?
 7. It's not fair. I ought to have received a prize too.
 8. You mustn't use this computer.

- II
- a. a logical conclusion about a past event
 - b. formal request
 - c. prohibition
 - d. offer
 - e. unfulfilled expectation
 - f. obligation
 - g. advice which was not followed
 - h. a guess about something which happened

B Choose the correct answer.

1. She (could walk / could have walked) before she was a year old.
2. The party was supposed to be a secret. You (shouldn't say / shouldn't have said) anything.
3. I'm not sure, but I (might leave / might have left) early tonight.
4. I'm not afraid to go alone. You (needn't have come / needn't come) with me.
5. It's late. You (must be / must have been) very tired.
6. You (ought to introduce / ought to have introduced) me to your friends. I didn't know anyone's name.

C Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use a modal perfect.

1. Nobody told her anything about the argument. She (know) about it.
2. We arrived too early. We (be) in such a hurry.
3. She (leave) the office because her coat and bag aren't here.
4. I (drive) to work, but the weather was so nice that I decided to walk.
5. It's possible that I (forget) to tell Joe about the meeting.
6. You (call) her on her birthday. She never forgets to call you.

D Rewrite each sentence using a modal or modal perfect. There may be more than one answer.

1. It isn't necessary for them to finish the job tonight.
They
2. It's possible that I took your jacket by mistake.
I
3. That man knows how to speak four languages.
That man
4. I didn't wear a sunhat, and now my head hurts.
My head hurts. I
5. It rained last night so the grass is wet.
It The grass is wet.
6. The man you saw wasn't Jack. He's been abroad since the summer.
You

Modals and Modal Perfects – Answers

- A**
- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 5. h |
| 2. g | 6. b |
| 3. a | 7. e |
| 4. f | 8. c |

- B**
1. could walk
 2. shouldn't have said
 3. might leave
 4. needn't come
 5. must be
 6. ought to have introduced

- C**
1. couldn't have known
 2. needn't have been / shouldn't have been
 3. must have left
 4. could have driven
 5. might have forgotten / may have forgotten
 6. should have called / ought to have called

- D**
1. They needn't / don't have to finish the job tonight.
 2. I may / might have taken your jacket by mistake.
 3. That man can / is able to speak four languages.
 4. My head hurts. I should have / ought to have worn a sunhat.
 5. It must have rained last night. The grass is wet.
 6. You couldn't have seen Jack. (He's been abroad since the summer.)