Modal Verbs: Present and past possibility.
Modal verbs: present possibility

- *may be, might be, could be*. We use these to say that something is possible at the moment. *(could be, more certain, may be / might be, less certain)*

Sarah *could be* at home. Have you tried phoning?
There *may / might be* some biscuits in the kitchen.

- **Must be**. We use it when we are certain that something is true.
  That *must be* our new teacher. He’s coming into the classroom.

- **Can’t be**. We use it when we are certain that something *isn’t* true.
  No, he *can’t be* our teacher. He’s too young.
Modal verbs: future possibility

- may / might + base form. We use these modal verbs to express what we think is possible in the future.

I may / might meet my friends after school today.
Modal verbs: past possibility

- **Could have / may have / might have + past participle.** We use them when we think it is possible that something happened in the past.

  John *could / may / might have gone* to the cinema. He was talking about seeing the film.

- **Could have / might have + past past participle** (*not may have*). We also use these when something was possible but didn’t happen. We often use this when we are *angry or shocked*.

  You *could have phoned* me. (But you didn’t, and I’m angry)

- **Must have + past participle.** We use it for an event that we think happened in the past.

  James *must have gone* to the cinema. He goes there every Friday.

- **Can’t have + participle.** We use it for past impossibility.

  Susan *can’t have driven* home. Her car’s still here.
Look at the following examples. What’s the correct answer?

1. He left the party early.
   a) He must have to work tomorrow.
   b) He must to have to work tomorrow.

2. He has to be done with the test by now.
   a) He might had finished the test.
   b) He must have finished the test.

3. There is new snow outside.
   a) It might have snowed last night.
   b) It must have snowed last night.

4. He didn't finish the exam on time.
   a) He might not had studied.
   b) He might not have studied.

5. She doesn't know if she will cook dinner tonight.
   a) She might cook dinner.
   b) She has to cook dinner.

6. Everyone is smoking outside.
   a) It must be forbidden to smoke in here.
   b) It must not be forbidden to smoke in here.

7. He looks very tired.
   a) He must have stayed up late last night.
   b) He might had to stay up late last night.

8. Everyone received 100% on the math exam.
   a) It must have been easy.
   b) It could have been easy.

9. That book has her name on it.
   a) It has to be hers.
   b) It might be hers.

10. Who fixed the chair?
    a) It couldn't been Jim. He was at work.
    b) It couldn't have been Jim. He was at work.