

*Must/may/can't/couldn't + have + past participle*

1. "I **must have left** my wallet at home. It's not in my jacket."  
"You **must have been** happy when you won that prize."
2. "He **might have misunderstood** your instructions. He looks confused."  
"They **may not have paid** you yet. Check your account."
3. "Tom **can't have taken** the car. He hasn't got a licence."  
"You **can't have seen** his face clearly. He was a long distance away."

We use *must/may/might/can't + have + past participle* to make deductions or to speculate about the past.

1. We use *must have* when we are almost sure that something happened or was true.  
(Opposite: can't have **NOT mustn't have**)
2. We use *may/might + have + past participle* when we think it is possible that something happened or was true. We can also use *could have* with the same meaning. *E.g. he could have been there, perhaps you just didn't see him.*
3. We use *can't + have + past participle* when we are almost sure that something didn't happen or that something was not true. We can also use *couldn't + have + past participle* with the same meaning. *E.g. Emily couldn't have worked that day. She was on holiday.*

*Should have/ought to have + past participle*

4. "I don't feel very well. I **shouldn't have eaten** all that cake."  
"I'm sorry. I **ought to have called** you earlier but I didn't have time."

- We use *should + have + past participle* to express regret or to criticize someone about a past action.
- You can use *ought to* as an alternative to *should*. *E.g. You ought to have told me you weren't coming.*

Rewrite the bold sentence using *must/might (not)/can't + have + past participle*:

1. I'm sure Sheila **has received my text message**. I sent it hours ago.
2. It's impossible that **they have arrived already**. They only left 20 minutes ago.
3. It's possible that **they repaired the car yesterday**. They said it wouldn't take long.
4. I think **she was there last week**. I remember seeing her.
5. I think it is impossible that **you left your bag at the theatre**. I saw you with it after the show.

Respond to sentence A, using *should/ought (not) to + have* and a verb from the box:

wait study listen

1. A: I did terribly in my exams. I failed all of them!  
B: You \_\_\_\_\_ much harder.
2. A: I think I paid too much for my new phone.  
B: You \_\_\_\_\_ until the price was reduced.
3. A: Helen gave me some terrible advice.  
B: You \_\_\_\_\_ to her.

## Answers

1. Sheila must have received my text message.
  2. They can't have arrived already.
  3. They might/may/could have repaired the car yesterday.
  4. She may/might/could have been there last week.
  5. You can't/couldn't have left your bag at the theatre.
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1. you should have studied/you ought to have studied
  2. you should have waited/you ought to have waited
  3. you shouldn't/not have listened/you ought not to have listened