

**MAY  
MIGHT  
COULD  
have**

something has possibly happened now or recently.

It's ten o'clock. They **might have arrived** now.

SPECULATION (adverb / phrase) CLUE WORDS	NOUN PRONOUN	PAST simple or continuous	MODAL (may/might could)	NOT	Present perfect (simple and continuous)	Present perfect Passive	Object or Adjunct
<b>Perhaps</b>	he					has not been informed	
	He		may/might could	not		have been informed	
<b>Probably</b>	They	overheard					what she said
	They		may/might could		have overheard		what she said
<b>Maybe...</b>	Sam				has been waiting		for you there
	Sam		may/might could		have been waiting		for you there
<b>It's possible that...</b>	he				has not finished		his homework yet.
	He		may/might could	not	have finished		his homework yet.
<b>There is a chance that...</b>	she	was lying					to you
	She		may/might could		have been lying		to you
<b>Possibly</b>	He					has possibly been arrested	on suspicion of dangerous driving
	He		may/might could			have been arrested	on suspicion of dangerous driving

**MUST  
have**

we are sure about something.

"You must have known that we had a test today – the teacher sent us all a message."

SPECULATION (adverb / phrase) CLUE WORDS	NOUN PRONOUN	PAST simple or continuous	MODAL (must)	NOT	Present perfect (simple and continuous)	Present perfect Passive	Object or Adjunct
<b>I'm sure that...</b>	he					has not been informed	
	He		must	not		have been informed	
<b>I'm certain that...</b>	They				have overheard		what she said
	They		must		have overheard		what she said
<b>I'm positive that...</b>	Sam	was looking					for the bathroom
	Sam		must		have been looking		for the bathroom
<b>I have no doubt that ...</b>	he	was not					aware of the problem.
	He		must	not	have been aware		of the problem
<b>There is no doubt that..</b>	she				has been lying		to you
	She		must		have been lying		to you

**CAN'T  
COULDN'T  
have**

something was not logically possible :  
"She can't have passed the exam – she didn't study at all!"

SPECULATION (adverb / phrase) CLUE WORDS	NOUN PRONOUN	PAST simple or continuous	MODAL (can't / couldn't)	NOT	Present perfect (simple and continuous)	Present perfect Passive	Object or Adjunct
<b>It's impossible that...</b>	he					has been informed	
	He		can't			have been informed	
<b>It's not possible that...</b>	you	saw					him in town yesterday. He is in China this week.
	You		couldn't		have seen		him in town yesterday. He is in China this week.

## STRUCTURE

PRONOUN NOUN	MODAL VERB	NOT	HAVE	PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT /ADJUNCT	BEEN + GERUND / BEEN + PARTICIPLE
He	May/Must/Can't	(not)	have	made the cake.	been running yesterday / been informed yesterday.