

Unit 13

1 Past modals for degrees of certainty (page 87)

► Use the past modal *could have* to express possibility. BUT Use *couldn't have* when you are almost 100% sure something is impossible: I suppose he **could have gotten** stuck in traffic, but he **couldn't have forgotten** his own birthday party.

Complete the conversations with past modals *must (not) have*, *could (not) have*, or *may/might (not) have*. Use the degrees of certainty and the verbs in parentheses. (More than one answer may be possible.)

- A: Yoko still hasn't called me back.
B: She *might not have gotten* your message. (it's possible – not get)
- A: What's wrong with Steven?
B: Oh, you the news. His dog ran away. (it's almost certain – not hear)
- A: I went to see the Larsens today, but they didn't answer the door.
B: Was their car there? If so, they in the backyard. (it's possible – be)
- A: Fabio said he was going to the party last night, but I didn't see him.
B: Neither did I. He there then. (it's not possible – not be)
- A: I can't find my glasses, but I know I had them at work today.
B: You them at the office. (it's possible – leave)
- A: Marc's new car looks really expensive.
B: Yes, it does. It a fortune! (it's almost certain – cost)

2 Past modals for judgments and suggestions (page 89)

► In advice with *would have*, the speaker means, "If I were you, ..."

Read each situation and choose the corresponding judgment or suggestion for an alternative past action.

Situation

- Sue forgot her boyfriend's birthday.^b
- Tim got a speeding ticket.
- Ruth still hasn't paid me back.
- Bill lied to us.
- I spent an hour making Joe dinner, and he didn't even thank me.
- Carol came over for dinner empty-handed.

Judgment/Suggestion

- I wouldn't have lent her money.
- She should have put it on her calendar.
- He should have told the truth.
- He shouldn't have gone over the limit.
- She should have brought something.
- I wouldn't have cooked for him.