

## 1 Complete the sentences with the phrases below.

can't have   could have   might not have   must have   should have   shouldn't have

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ used my satnav. This map is really old and now I'm completely lost.
- 2 Oh look, that's Jon's phone on the desk. He \_\_\_\_\_ forgotten it.
- 3 My computer isn't working. I'm not sure why, but I \_\_\_\_\_ downloaded some malware when I clicked on that link.
- 4 He \_\_\_\_\_ sent this text message. He hasn't got a phone.
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ tried to update my phone software. I did it last night and now my phone doesn't work at all.
- 6 You \_\_\_\_\_ deleted that document. Perhaps you saved it to a different folder.

## 2 Complete the text with the correct past modal form of the verbs in brackets.

**Kim** My laptop is missing! It's got all my homework on it!

**Steve** OK, don't panic. When did you last have it?

**Kim** Well, it was in my bag when I was on the train yesterday afternoon. But when I got off the train, it wasn't there.

**Steve** Someone on the train <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (must / steal) it! Who was sitting next to you?

**Kim** An elderly lady. But she <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (can't / take) the laptop. She got off the train with me, and she didn't have any luggage.

**Steve** It <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (might / fall) out of your bag. Was the bag closed?

**Kim** No, it wasn't.

**Steve** Well, that's not good. You <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (shouldn't / leave) your bag open.

**Kim** Yes, well, I know that now.

**Steve** Have you called the train company? They <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (could / find) it.

**Kim** No, I haven't called them yet.

**Steve** Well, you <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (should / call) them first of all!

**Kim** Actually, I've just remembered something. I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (might / not / lose) my laptop. In fact, I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (may / forget) to put it in my bag before I got onto the train.

**Steve** So where is it?

**Kim** Well, I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (must / leave) it at my aunt's house. That's where I was yesterday morning.

**Steve** Mystery solved!

3 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Read about these situations. Then talk about what might / could / can't / must have happened.

- Natasha was crying last night after a long phone call.
- Will was listening to his MP3 player on the beach yesterday. Now it doesn't work.
- Marie hasn't replied to any of her emails for over a week.
- George is missing and his laptop and phone have also disappeared.

Natasha must have had an argument with her boyfriend.

I think she might have heard some bad news about a relative.

## 5D Modals in the past

**Aims:** To review and practise the past modals: *must have*, *should / shouldn't have*, *may / may not have*, *might / might not have*, *could have* and *can't have*.

**Time:** 10–15 minutes

**Materials:** One handout for each student

### Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and ask them to do exercise 1. Tell them to read through the sentences carefully in order to understand the meaning, as this will help them to understand which past modal fits best.

#### KEY

- 1 should have
- 2 must have
- 3 could have
- 4 can't have
- 5 shouldn't have
- 6 might not have

### Exercise 2

- Tell students to read through the whole dialogue first and ask them a few quick comprehension questions:  
*Why is Kim worried?* (because her laptop is missing)  
*Who was sitting next to her on the train?* (an elderly lady)  
*Has she called the train company?* (no) *Where was she yesterday morning?* (at her aunt's house) Students then complete the dialogue with the past modal form of the verbs in brackets. Ask two students to read out the completed dialogue to the rest of the class.

#### KEY

- 1 must have stolen
- 2 can't have taken
- 3 might have fallen
- 4 shouldn't have left
- 5 could have found
- 6 should have called
- 7 might not have lost
- 8 may have forgotten
- 9 must have left

### Exercise 3

- Students work in pairs. Give them a minute to read the situations and think about possible reasons for each one. Then they discuss their ideas together, using past modals. Tell them to think of at least three suggestions for each situation. Encourage students to be inventive and humorous with their ideas.