**Past Modals**

modal verb + present infinitive **or** modal verb + past infinitive

Present Past

Can could

Will would

Shall should

May might

Must X

Have to Had to

I can go to Astorka.

I could go to Astorka.

I could have+gone…

He can’t/couldn’t have gone on holiday. I saw him today!

You should drink gingko tea.

You should have drunk gingko tea to help your memory.

She wasn’t able to fall asleep.

She can’t have fallen asleep, I heard her TV at 4am.

I can play guitar.

I could play guitar *(past = I knew how to play)*

I could have played guitar *(but I did NOT).*

I shall eat chocolate-covered cockroaches today.

I should eat chocolate-covered cockroaches. *(today)*

I should have eaten chocolate-covered cockroaches. *(I had the opportunity but I was too scared to do it.)*

Mužů to dělat zítra.

I can do that tomorrow. ☺

Mohl jsem to dělat včera.

(I could do that yesterday.) ☹

Do = present infinitive

Have done = past infinitive (have + 3. tvar)

I could have done that yesterday. ☺

+ I could have done it.

- He can’t/couldn’t have done it.

**Examples**

May (UK) / might (US):

He may/might have done it yesterday.

Can (UK) / could (US):

He can’t / couldn’t have been in Prague yesterday, I saw him in Brno.

Should (UK + US):

I should have bought a tram ticket before getting on the tram. Now the ticket inspector is coming and it’s too late.

It must be raining. = now

It must have been raining. = It doesn’t rain anymore.

You should start sleeping more. = now

You should have slept more on the weekend. = It’s too late, you failed the exam because you were too tired.