

PAST MODALS

modal verb + present infinitive or modal verb + past infinitive

PRESENT

Can
Will
Shall
May
Must
Have to

PAST

could
would
should
might
X
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.**