

A cartoon illustration of a woman with short, wavy brown hair and blue eyes. She is wearing a black top and large hoop earrings. She has her hand on her chin in a thinking pose. Several colorful question marks (blue, yellow, green) are floating around her head, suggesting a state of confusion or deep thought.



Although this is an activity to reinforce learning and the grammar should have been explained beforehand, it might be a good idea to revise orally or on the board the targeted grammar.

Warming-up

Remind students of the use of the structure *modal+have+past participle* to make suppositions about actions that did or did not take place in the past.

Explain that for this activity they will be working with the modal “*must*” to speculate about the past and with the modals *could/may/might* in the past to discuss different possibilities. Drill pronunciation of *must/might...+have+past participle*

- Must have been | ‘ mʌstəv ‘biːn |
- might have gone | ‘maɪtəv ‘gɒn |

The Task

On the walls of the class display the pictures you want to use. *See the ones I used here.* Ask students to try to guess the answers to the questions in the pictures and then, write them down on the post-it notes provided using the modal **must** in the past to speculate about what must have happened. Tell them that on the back of each picture you have written the answer to the question. They’ll win one point if their answer is the same as the one written on the back of the picture.

Procedure

- On the walls of the class display the pictures you want to use.
 - Ask students to work in threes.
- Give each group a different number and some post-it notes. You will need to give them as many post-it notes as pictures on the walls. They will need a post-it note for each picture.
 - Now, ask students to stand up and have a look at the different pictures.
- In their groups they will have to discuss the different possibilities using the structure *may/might/could +have+ past participle*.
- Then when they reach an agreement, they will need to write their suggestions on the post-it note using the modal “*must*” in the past. Ask students to write their assigned number on the post-it note. *Ex. He must have saved someone or he must have discovered a bomb*
- Ask students to sit down. Take the first picture and turn it around. Read the sentence explaining the picture. Read the post-it notes to see which group guessed correctly. Award them one point. Needless to say, the winner is the group that gets more points.