

High-Intermediate 1
Unit 9: Grammar
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Speculations & Conclusions about the Past

speculation = the activity of guessing possible answers to a question without having enough information to be certain

conclusion = the opinion you have after considering all the information about something

Positive Statements			
Simple Form	Subject +	must have had to have could have may have might have	+ Past Participle + ...
Progressive Form	Subject +	must have been had to have been could have been may have been might have been	+ Present Participle (Verb + ing) + ...

The Event in the Past: Tom had an accident last night.

*He **must have** driven carelessly.* ⇒ We are 100% sure he drove carelessly.

*He **had to have** driven carelessly.* ⇒ 100% sure

*He **could have** driven carelessly.* ⇒ 50% sure

*He **may/might have** driven carelessly.* ⇒ 30% sure

*He **must have been** driving carelessly.* ⇒ We're 100% sure he was driving carelessly.

*He **had to have been** driving carelessly.* ⇒ 100% sure

*He **could have been** driving carelessly.* ⇒ 50% sure

*He **may/might have been** driving carelessly.* ⇒ 30% sure

Negative Statements			
Simple Form	Subject +	couldn't have mustn't have may not have might not have	+ Past Participle + ...
Progressive Form	Subject +	couldn't have been mustn't have been may not have been might not have been	+ Present Participle (Verb + ing) + ...

*He **couldn't have** driven carefully.* ⇒ We're 100% sure he didn't drive carefully.

*He **mustn't have** driven carefully.* ⇒ 70% sure

*He **may/might not have** driven carefully.* ⇒ 30% sure

He **couldn't have been** driving carefully. ⇒ We're 100% sure he wasn't driving carefully.
 He **mustn't have been** driving carefully. ⇒ 70% sure
 He **may/might not have been** driving carefully. ⇒ 30% sure

Yes/No Questions			
Simple Form	Could +	Subject	+ have + Past Participle + ... + ?
Progressive Form	Could +	Subject	+ have + Present Participle (Verb + ing) + ... + ?

Could Tom **have** driven carelessly?
Could Tom **have** had bad luck?
Could another driver **have** hit into Tom's car?
Could Tom **have** collided with another car?
Could Tom **have been** talking on his cell phone?

WH Questions				
Simple Form	WH Word	+ could +	Subject	+ have + Past Participle + ... + ?
Progressive Form	WH Word	+ could +	Subject	+ have + Present Participle (Verb + ing) + ... + ?

How **could** Tom **have been** driving?
 How **could** Tom **have** prevented the accident?
 What **could** Tom **have been** doing when he had an accident?

Short Answers			
Yes,	+ Subject +	must had to could may might	+ have (been).
No,	+ Subject +	couldn't mustn't may not might not	+ have (been).

Examples:

Yes, he	had to must could may might	have (been).
No, he	couldn't mustn't may not might not	have (been).

Sample Questions:

Robert is a lazy student. He usually gets low grades on his exams, but yesterday he got an A on a very difficult exam. He have cheated on the exam. **I'm sure** about it.

- a) should b) may c) might d) must

The Right Answer ⇒ d

Robert is a lazy student. He usually gets low grades on his exams, but yesterday he got an A on a very difficult exam. He have cheated on the exam. **I'm not sure** about it.

- a) must b) may c) should d) ought to

The Right Answer ⇒ b

Source:

[High Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)