

Modals of Deduction & Opinion

Now	maybe	might	it might be true.
	maybe not	might not	it might not be a good idea.
	sure it's true	must	You must be hungry.
	sure it's not true	can't	It can't be right.
	it's right	should	They should be here now.
	it's not right	shouldn't	The lights shouldn't be on.

Past	maybe	might have	He might have done it himself.
	maybe not	might not have	He might not have got your message yet.
	sure it was true	must have	You must have been really tired.
	sure it wasn't true	couldn't have *	She couldn't have been here yesterday.
	it was wrong not to	can't have *	He can't have eaten anything today.
	it was wrong to	should have	You should have said something
		shouldn't have	You shouldn't have told her about it.

* we use 'can't have' in the same way as **present perfect** and 'couldn't have' like **past simple**.

'present perfect' period	'past simple' period
He so really tired. He can't have slept well.	He looked so tired. He couldn't have slept well.
She can't have finished her dinner already.	He couldn't have finished before me.
You can't have been to Brazil. You don't have a passport!	Lenin couldn't have flown in a plane. It was too dangerous.

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