



Grammar practice



Excellence in Education,

Excellence in Delivery,

Excellence in People



C1

Section 4:- Advanced Modals and Modal-like Expressions



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Section 4: Advanced Modals and Modal-like Expressions

4.1 Modals with Continuous and Perfect Continuous Infinitive

Speculate about ongoing actions in the present or past.

Example 1: He ___ (must be working) late.

Example 2: They ___ (might have been sleeping).

1. He is not answering; he ___ (must / be / work) late at the office.
2. They didn't hear the doorbell; they ___ (might / have / be / sleep).
3. She looks exhausted; she ___ (must / have / be / study) all night.
4. The car is making a strange noise; the engine ___ (could / be / fail).
5. He wasn't at home yesterday; he ___ (may / have / be / travel).
6. You're completely soaked! You ___ (must / have / be / walk) in the rain.
7. They haven't arrived yet; they ___ (could / be / sit) in traffic.
8. She knew all the details; she ___ (must / have / be / listen) at the door.
9. He is very quiet today; he ___ (might / be / worry) about the exam.
10. The ground is covered in white; it ___ (must / have / be / snow) heavily.
11. I can't find them; they ___ (may / be / hide) in the garden.
12. His hands are covered in paint; he ___ (must / have / be / decorate).
13. She ignored me; she ___ (could / have / be / think) about something else.
14. The dog is barking; someone ___ (must / be / walk) past the gate.
15. They looked very angry; they ___ (might / have / be / argue).
16. He is breathing heavily; he ___ (must / have / be / run).
17. The lights are flickering; the power grid ___ (could / be / malfunction).
18. She wasn't in class; she ___ (may / have / be / feel) unwell.
19. You know exactly what happened; you ___ (must / have / be / watch) us!
20. They are not answering their phones; they ___ (might / be / fly) right now.

4.2 Nuanced Obligation and Necessity

Differentiate 'needn't have' (did it unnecessarily) and 'didn't need to' (didn't do it because it wasn't necessary).

Example 1: I ___ (needn't have cooked); they brought food.

Example 2: I ___ (didn't need to cook), so I watched TV.

1. I ___ (needn't / cook) a huge dinner; everyone had already eaten.
2. We ___ (didn't need / rush) to the station, because we knew the train was delayed.
3. You ___ (needn't / bring) your umbrella; it didn't rain a single drop all day!
4. She ___ (didn't need / take) the exam again, as she had already passed it.
5. They ___ (needn't / pay) for a taxi; I would have gladly driven them home.
6. I ___ (didn't need / buy) any milk, because I saw we had two bottles left.
7. You ___ (needn't / print) the whole report; a digital copy was perfectly fine.
8. He ___ (didn't need / wake) up early on Sunday, so he slept until noon.
9. We ___ (needn't / book) a table at the restaurant; it was completely empty!
10. I ___ (didn't need / ask) for directions, because I had a GPS on my phone.
11. She ___ (needn't / worry) so much about the test; she got a perfect score.
12. They ___ (didn't need / hire) a guide, as they had visited the city many times.
13. You ___ (needn't / shout) at him; it wasn't his fault the computer broke.
14. I ___ (didn't need / wear) a suit, because the invitation clearly said 'casual dress'.
15. We ___ (needn't / buy) all those extra snacks; nobody ate them.
16. He ___ (didn't need / apologize), because I knew it was an honest mistake.
17. You ___ (needn't / stay) up all night; the deadline was extended to next week.
18. She ___ (didn't need / pack) a heavy coat, as she checked the warm weather forecast.
19. They ___ (needn't / leave) so early; the party went on until 3 AM.
20. I ___ (didn't need / call) the doctor, because I started feeling better immediately.

Answer Key - Section 4

4.1 Modals with Continuous and Perfect Continuous Infinitive

1. must be working
2. might have been sleeping
3. must have been studying
4. could be failing
5. may have been traveling
6. must have been walking
7. could be sitting
8. must have been listening
9. might be worrying
10. must have been snowing
11. may be hiding
12. must have been decorating
13. could have been thinking
14. must be walking
15. might have been arguing
16. must have been running
17. could be malfunctioning
18. may have been feeling
19. must have been watching
20. might be flying

4.2 Nuanced Obligation and Necessity

1. needn't have cooked
2. didn't need to rush
3. needn't have brought
4. didn't need to take
5. needn't have paid
6. didn't need to buy
7. needn't have printed
8. didn't need to wake
9. needn't have booked
10. didn't need to ask
11. needn't have worried
12. didn't need to hire
13. needn't have shouted
14. didn't need to wear
15. needn't have bought
16. didn't need to apologize
17. needn't have stayed
18. didn't need to pack
19. needn't have left
20. didn't need to call

