

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Grammar Self-Checks

(Unit 9, page 102)

Perfect modals in the passive voice for speculating about the past

Look at the statements using modals to speculate with different degrees of certainty about the past. Passive voice is used when the focus is on the receiver of the action, or when the performer of the action is unknown.

not certain	{	The dinosaurs might (or may) have been killed by a meteor.
		The trees could have been destroyed by a fire.
		The gold figures might not (or may not) have been lost .
almost certain	{	The stone balls must have been moved by animals.
		The drawings must not have been discovered until later.
very certain	{	The crater had to have been caused by a meteorite.
		The trees couldn't (or can't) have been burned by a fire.

FIGURE IT OUT...

Match the perfect modals in the passive voice with the meaning they express.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. had to have been | a. you're very sure that something is true or correct. |
| _____ 2. might have been | b. you're almost sure something is true or correct. |
| _____ 3. must have been | c. you're not sure that something is true or correct. |

Look at the questions and short responses with perfect modals in the passive voice.

Is it possible they were killed by a meteorite?	They may have been .
Do you think they were made by hand?	They had to have been .
I wonder if they could have just been lost.	They couldn't have been .

FIGURE IT OUT...

Write short responses to the question. Use the word in parentheses in the response.

Could they have been stolen?

1. (couldn't) _____
2. (might) _____
3. (must) _____