

13 That's a possibility.

1 SNAPSHOT



Pet Peeves

Common mysteries among friends and acquaintances

Why is it that some people . . . ?

- are always late
- never return phone calls or answer e-mails
- don't listen carefully when you talk to them
- act differently in front of people they want to impress
- always look messy
- never remember to return things
- are always short of money
- never know when to go home or get off the phone

Source: Interviews with people between the ages of 16 and 45

Which of the above pet peeves do you have about people you know? Which one is the worst? Underline a pet peeve you could be accused of. When and why are you guilty of it? What other things do you get peeved about?

2 CONVERSATION What happened?

A Listen and practice.

Jackie: You asked Beth to be here around 7:00, didn't you?

Bill: Yes. What time is it now?

Jackie: It's almost 8:00. I wonder what happened.

Bill: Hmm. She might have forgotten the time. Why don't I call and see if she's on her way?

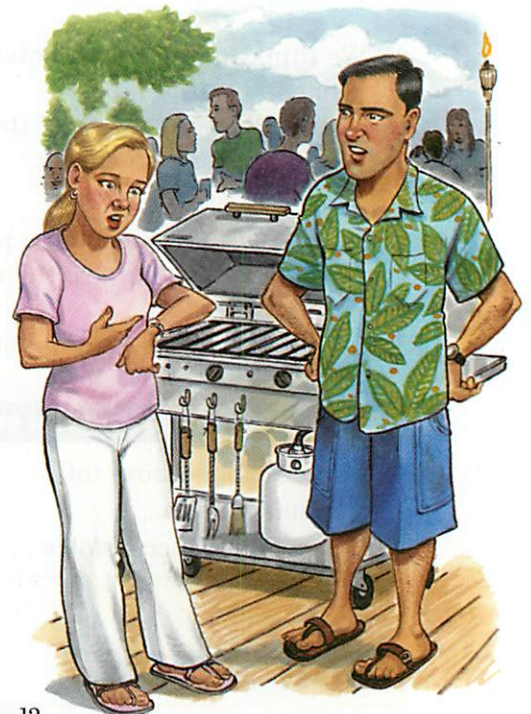
A few minutes later

Bill: I got her voice mail, so she must not have turned on her cell phone.

Jackie: I hope she didn't have a problem on the road. Her car could have broken down or something.

Bill: Of course she may have simply forgotten and done something else today.

Jackie: No, she couldn't have forgotten – I just talked to her about it yesterday. I guess we should start without her.



B Listen to the rest of the conversation. What happened?

3 PRONUNCIATION *Reduction in past modals*

A Listen and practice. Notice how **have** is reduced in these sentences.

He must ~~have~~ forgotten the date. She might ~~have~~ had a problem on the road.

B Listen and practice. Notice that **not** is not contracted or reduced in these sentences.

He may **not** have remembered it. She must **not** have caught her bus.

4 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Past modals for degrees of certainty

It's almost certain.

She **must have left** already.

She **must not have turned on** her cell phone.

It's not possible.

She **couldn't have been** at home.

It's possible.

She **may/might have forgotten** the time.

She **may/might not have remembered** the time.

Her car **could have broken down**.

A Read each situation and choose the best explanation. Then practice with a partner. (Pay attention to the reduced forms in past modals.)

Situation

1. Jane is in a terrible mood today.
2. Brian got a call and looked worried.
3. The teacher looks very happy today.
4. Maura couldn't keep her eyes open.
5. Jeff was fired from his job.
6. My cousin is short of money again.

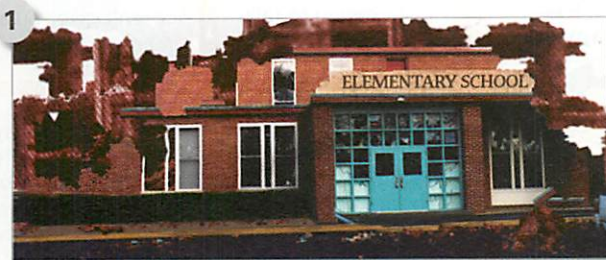
Explanation

- a. He may have gotten a raise.
- b. She must not have gotten enough sleep.
- c. He might not have done his work on time.
- d. She could have had a fight with her boyfriend.
- e. She must have spent too much last month.
- f. He couldn't have heard good news.

B Pair work Suggest different explanations for each situation in part A.

5 LISTENING *Jumping to conclusions*

A Group work What do you think happened? Offer an explanation for each event.



B Listen to the explanations for the two events in part A and take notes. What *did* happen? How similar were your explanations?

6 SPEAKING What's your explanation?

A Pair work What do you think were the reasons for these events? Suggest two different explanations for each.

- Two people were having dinner in a restaurant. One suddenly got up and ran out of the restaurant.
- A woman living alone returned home and found the TV and radio turned on. They weren't on when she went out.
- Two friends met again after not seeing each other for many years. One looked at the other and burst out laughing.

B Group work Each student thinks of two situations like the ones in part A. Others suggest explanations.

A: Late one night, a man wearing pajamas was seen in a field. He was carrying a broken leash.

B: Well, he might have been sleepwalking and . . .



7 INTERCHANGE 13 Photo plays

What's your best explanation for some unusual events? Go to Interchange 13.

8 PERSPECTIVES She's driving me crazy!

A Listen to three friends talking to one another on the phone. Check (✓) the response you think is best for each person's problem.

<p>Hi Molly. Ramona's mad because she thinks I didn't ask her to go hiking with us. I sent her four e-mails, but she never responded!</p>	<p>Michi</p>	<p>Molly</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Well, you know Ramona never answers e-mails. You should have called her on the phone.	<input type="checkbox"/> Oh, forget it! I wouldn't have sent so many messages. If Ramona can't bother to check her e-mail, she'll just miss out on things.
<p>Ramona, hi! I just got off the phone with Michi. She asked me for advice, but she never stops talking long enough to listen!</p>	<p>Molly</p>	<p>Ramona</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> You could have been more understanding. Michi must have been upset and just needed to talk.	<input type="checkbox"/> I would have asked Michi to be quiet for a minute. How can you give her advice if she doesn't give you a chance to talk?
<p>Michi, I can't believe that Molly still has my notes! I needed them for a test today. She never returns things!</p>	<p>Ramona</p>	<p>Michi</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Molly shouldn't have kept your notes this long! But I wouldn't have lent them to her the week before a test.	<input type="checkbox"/> Oh, Molly may have just forgotten about them. I would have just borrowed someone else's notes.

B Do you talk about pet peeves with your friends? Do they give you advice?

Past modals for opinions and advice

Giving opinions

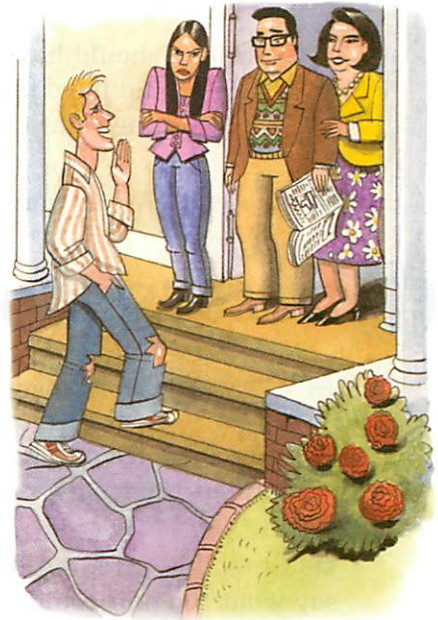
You **should have called** her on the phone.
She **shouldn't have kept** your notes this long.

Giving advice

You **could have been** more understanding.
I **would have borrowed** someone else's notes.
I **wouldn't have lent** them to her.

A Complete the conversations using past modals with the verbs given. Then practice with a partner.

- A: I invited my boyfriend over to meet my parents, but he arrived wearing torn jeans. He looked so messy!
B: Well, he (dress) neatly. I (ask) him to wear something nicer.
- A: John borrowed my car and dented it. When he returned it, he didn't even say anything about it!
B: He (tell) you! Well, I (not lend) it to him in the first place. He's a terrible driver.
- A: I'm exhausted. Mary came over and stayed until 2 A.M.!
B: She (not stay) so late. You (start) yawning. Maybe she would have gotten the hint!
- A: Tom invited me to a play, but I ended up paying for us both!
B: I (not pay) for him. He (not invite) you if he was short of money.



B Pair work Think of another suggestion or comment for each situation above.

10 WORD POWER Reactions

A Megan's boyfriend forgot her birthday. How does she react? Match each reaction with the best example.

Reaction

- an assumption
- a criticism
- a demand
- an excuse
- a prediction
- a suggestion
- a suspicion
- a warning

Example

- If you do it again, you'll have to find a new girlfriend.
- I bet you were out with another woman!
- You can be so inconsiderate.
- You'll probably forget our anniversary, too!
- Now you have to take me out to dinner . . . twice.
- You must have wanted to break up with me.
- You know, you ought to buy me flowers.
- It's OK, you must feel really sorry!

B Group work Imagine that someone was late for class, or choose another situation. Give an example of each reaction in the list above.

11

LISTENING *What should they have done?*

A Listen to descriptions of three situations. What would have been the best thing to do in each situation? Check (✓) the best suggestion.

- Dennis should have called a locksmith.
 He should have called a tow truck.
 He did the right thing.
- Diana should have turned up her radio to keep out the noise.
 She should have called the neighbors to see what was happening.
 She did the right thing.
- Simon should have taken the ring and put an ad in the newspaper.
 He should have taken the ring and called the police when he got home.
 He did the right thing.

B Pair work What would you have done in each situation in part A?

12

DISCUSSION *You could have . . .*

A Pair work Work together to think of three interesting predicaments.

“We were at a friend’s house for dinner last night. He had cooked all day, but the food was awful! We didn’t want to hurt his feelings.”

B Group work Pairs take turns stating their predicaments. Others say what the pair could, should, or might have done.

A: You should have told him you weren’t feeling well.

B: Or you could have eaten it really slowly. . . .

13

WRITING *About a predicament*

A Think of a predicament from your own experience. Write a paragraph describing the situation, but don’t explain how you resolved it.

My teacher invited my class to a party and told us to “dress up.” The problem was, the party just happened to be on Halloween night, and I thought “dress up” meant to wear a costume! I arrived at the party dressed as a bee, and everyone else was wearing nice clothes! I was so embarrassed.

B Pair work Exchange papers. Write a short paragraph giving advice for your partner’s predicament.

C Read the advice for your predicament. Tell your partner how you resolved it. Whose solution was better?



The Blue Lights of Silver Cliff

Look at the picture. What do you think the "blue lights" are?

Today, the town of Silver Cliff, Colorado, has a population of only 100 people. Once, however, it was a prosperous mining town where thousands came with dreams of finding silver and making their fortune.

Late one night in 1880, a group of miners were headed back to their camp after a good time in town. They were still laughing and joking as they approached the graveyard on a hill outside Silver Cliff. Then one of the men yelled and pointed toward the graveyard. The others fell silent. On top of each grave, they saw flamelike blue lights. These eerie lights seemed to be dancing on the graves, disappearing and then appearing again.

This was the first sighting of the blue lights of Silver Cliff. There have been many other sightings over the years. In 1969, Edward Lineham from *National Geographic* magazine visited the graveyard. Lineham's article tells of his experience: "I saw them. . . . Dim, round spots of blue-white light glowed ethereally among the graves. I . . . stepped forward for a better look. They vanished. I aimed my flashlight at one eerie glow and switched it on. It revealed only a tombstone."



Lineham and others have suggested various explanations for the lights. The lights might have been reflections of lights from the town, but Silver Cliff's lights seemed too dim to have this effect. They could have been caused by radioactive ore, though there's no evidence of radioactivity. They may also have been caused by gases from rotting matter. This usually happens in swamps, however, and the area around Silver Cliff is dry. Or, perhaps, the lights are from the helmets of dead miners wandering the hills in search of their fortune.

A Read the article. Then answer these questions.

1. How has Silver Cliff changed over the years?
2. Where were the blue lights first seen?
3. Who saw the blue lights first?
4. What do the blue lights look like?

B Which of these statements are facts? Which are opinions? Check (✓) Fact or Opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
1. Today, the town of Silver Cliff has a population of 100 people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The miners saw flamelike blue lights on top of each grave.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Edward Lineham suggested various explanations for the lights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The lights were actually reflections of lights from the town.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There was no evidence of radioactivity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The lights were from the helmets of dead miners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C Group work Which of the explanations for the blue lights do you think is the most satisfactory? Why? Can you think of any other possible explanations?