



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 7 · 7A

Game on

Theme · On Stage



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Theme: On Stage



Learning objectives

- Use PAST MODALS (must have, might/could have, can't have, should have) to speculate about the past and express regret or criticism.
- Use WOULD RATHER (+ bare infinitive / + past subject + past simple) to express preferences.
- Talk about sports, competition, results and officiating with B2-level vocabulary.
- Pronounce HAVE as a weak /■v/ in past-modal chunks (must've, should've, could've, might've, can't've).
- React to a match, race or contest with natural spoken English.
- Write a short match report or opinion piece using past modals.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · a sporting confession

Pick ONE prompt and answer for your partner in full sentences — 30 seconds each.

The last live sports event I watched was...

A sport I secretly wish I were better at is...

The most unfair sports decision I remember is...

One team or athlete I'd cross the street to avoid talking about is...

A sport I've tried and immediately given up on is...

followUp: Listen for any 'should have', 'must have' or 'would rather' — those are today's grammar.

Lead-in: reading the moment

Match each situation to the most likely deduction. Notice the past modal — is the speaker sure, half-sure, or sure NOT?

1. The visiting team walked off the pitch looking devastated.
2. She crossed the line five seconds ahead of her personal best.
3. The referee never blew for the obvious foul.
4. The stadium is completely empty an hour before kick-off.
5. He limped off in the tenth minute and didn't return.
6. The champion lost 6–0, 6–0 in under an hour.
- a) He must have picked up an injury in training.
- b) She must have trained really hard this season.
- c) The game can't have started yet.
- d) They must have lost.
- e) He can't have seen it — he was blocked by the defender.
- f) She can't have been fully fit — that's not her level.

1 → d · must have (near certainty, positive)

2 → b · must have (near certainty, positive)

3 → e · can't have (near certainty, negative)

4 → c · can't have (near certainty, negative)

5 → a · must have (near certainty, positive)

6 → f · can't have (near certainty, negative)

followUp: Rule of thumb: MUST HAVE = I'm 95% sure it happened. CAN'T HAVE = I'm 95% sure it didn't. MIGHT / COULD HAVE = maybe. SHOULD HAVE = it didn't happen and I wish it had.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Reading: the greatest comeback nobody expected

On the evening of the 25th of May, 2005, in the Atatürk Stadium in Istanbul, Liverpool were 3–0 down at half-time to AC Milan in the Champions League final. Nobody in the stadium, nobody watching at home, and probably nobody in the Liverpool dressing room believed they could still win. The Italian giants were considered untouchable that season, and, if you were being honest, Liverpool had been outplayed for forty-five minutes.

And yet, six minutes into the second half, the captain, Steven Gerrard, headed the ball into the net. Two minutes later, Vladimír Šmicer struck from long range. Three minutes after that, Xabi Alonso equalised from a rebounded penalty. In the space of six minutes, Liverpool had done what nobody thought they could: they had turned a lost final into a level game. The match went to penalties, and Liverpool lifted the cup.

What actually happened at half-time in that Liverpool dressing room has become one of football's favourite arguments. According to the manager, Rafa Benítez, he simply made a small tactical change and told the players they still had to walk out with pride. Others insist he must have delivered a legendary speech, and that Gerrard must have taken it personally. The truth is probably less dramatic. The players were exhausted and shocked. They can't have expected to come back. They just decided to try — one minute at a time.

Twenty years on, that game is still studied in coaching schools and business seminars, because it defies almost every idea we have about winners and losers. The Italian side did not play badly in the second half; Liverpool were simply braver in the moments that mattered. Should Milan have closed the game down? Yes, they probably should have sat deeper and killed the tempo. Could Liverpool have won earlier? Possibly, if that penalty had gone in first time. But the beauty of live sport is that we don't get to rewind. We only get to argue about what should have, might have and can't have happened — and that argument, honestly, is half the fun of watching.

1. How were Liverpool doing at half-time?
 - (A) Winning 3–0
 - (B) Level at 0–0
 - (C) Losing 3–0
2. How long did the three Liverpool goals take?
 - (A) A single minute
 - (B) About six minutes
 - (C) About twenty minutes
3. How did Liverpool finally win the match?
 - (A) A last-minute goal
 - (B) A penalty shoot-out
 - (C) Extra time

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. What is the manager's own version of the half-time speech?
- (A) A legendary emotional speech
 - (B) A small tactical change and a call for pride
 - (C) He was silent
5. What is the writer's point in the final paragraph?
- (A) Milan were badly outplayed in the second half
 - (B) The magic of sport is arguing about what MIGHT have happened
 - (C) Coaching schools no longer teach the match

Sports vocabulary in context

Match each expression to its closest meaning.

3–0 down — losing by three goals to zero

outplayed — played worse than the opposing team

equalise — score to make the game level

penalty shoot-out — one-on-one kicks used to decide a tied game

lift the cup — win the trophy

close the game down — play defensively to keep a winning score

Vocabulary: sports & competition

intro: At B2, upgrade 'the game was good' with the specific verbs, results and officiating language native speakers use — the collocations matter more than single words.

1. **label:** People & roles

2. **label:** Verbs for competition

3. **label:** Officiating & rules

4. **label:** Results & reactions

practice

Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase from the box (correct form).

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. The visiting team ____ us 5–0 — it was a total thrashing.

2. It ended 2–2. Neither side deserved to lose — a fair _____.

3. The captain got ____ off in the first half — a very stupid tackle.

4. We were 3–0 down at half-time, but we made an incredible ____ to win 4–3.

5. The ____ awarded a penalty after a review from VAR.

6. She was the ____ going into the final, but she lost to a teenager.

7. The two ____ have played each other in every final for a decade.

8. They lost, but they felt they had been ____ — the ref missed a clear foul.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with ONE word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. Our two teams have been <u>opponents facing each other</u> in the cup for a decade.

2. Nobody expected the <u>team everyone predicted would lose</u> to win the final.

3. The defender was forced to <u>give away</u> a penalty in the last minute.

4. After losing the first half, the team made an incredible <u>recovery to win it back</u>.

5. The fans felt they had been <u>treated unfairly by the officials</u>.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

prompt: Describe a sporting moment — as a player or a spectator — that changed how you think about winning and losing.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

Vary sentence length and use one relative clause.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

sample: I still remember the school final where our side, clearly the underdog against a much stronger adversary, went two goals down within ten minutes. Most of us assumed the game was already lost, yet something shifted after half-time, and what followed felt like a genuine resurgence, one goal after another until we somehow drew level. We didn't win in the end — a late, harsh decision meant we had to concede a penalty we didn't deserve — but nobody left the pitch feeling hard done by, which surprised me most of all. That afternoon taught me that the scoreline, which everyone remembers first, is rarely the part that stays with you. What stays is the moment you refused to accept that the match, or the story, was already over.



Grammar: past modals & would rather

1. Speculating about the past — MUST HAVE + past participle = you're almost sure it happened. • 'The stadium is empty — the game must have finished hours ago.' CAN'T HAVE / COULDN'T HAVE + past participle = you're almost sure it did NOT happen. • 'They can't have won — I just saw them come off looking upset.' MIGHT / MAY / COULD HAVE + past participle = it's possible; you're not sure. • 'She might have twisted her ankle in the warm-up.'

2. Regret & criticism about the past — SHOULD HAVE / OUGHT TO HAVE + past participle = it didn't happen (or it did, when it shouldn't have) — and you wish it had been different. • 'We should have trained harder' (we didn't). • 'You shouldn't have shouted at the referee' (you did). Negative: SHOULDN'T HAVE + past participle. ✗ 'I should had gone.' → ✓ 'I should have gone.' (should + BARE have + past participle)

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. WOULD RATHER — preferences — Two patterns: A) SAME subject → 'would rather' + BARE INFINITIVE. • 'I'd rather WATCH the game at home.' (I prefer to) • Negative: 'I'd rather NOT go to the pub.' B) DIFFERENT subjects → 'would rather' + SUBJECT + PAST SIMPLE. • 'I'd rather you STAYED here.' (I prefer that you stay) • 'She'd rather we DIDN'T talk about it.' Note the past-simple form has PRESENT / FUTURE meaning — this is a subjunctive.

4. Common mistakes — ✗ He must have trained hard. → ✓ He must HAVE trained hard. ✗ I should of gone. → ✓ I should HAVE gone. ('should of' is a spelling of what people HEAR, but it's wrong.) ✗ I'd rather to stay home. → ✓ I'd rather STAY home. ✗ I'd rather you to leave. → ✓ I'd rather you LEFT. ✗ It can't be true — I saw them lose. → ✓ It can't HAVE BEEN true — I saw them lose. (past deduction needs 'have')

5. Contractions & pronunciation — In natural speech, HAVE almost always contracts and its vowel weakens to /v/ or even just /v/. • must have → must've /mʌstv/ • should have → should've /ʃʊldv/ • could have → could've, might have → might've • can't have → /kɑntv/ This is what section 6 will train.

Exercise A — must have / can't have / might have

Complete each deduction with **MUST HAVE**, **CAN'T HAVE** or **MIGHT HAVE** + the verb in brackets.

1. She's celebrating in the changing room — she ____ (win) the match.

2. The lights are off and the gates are locked — the game ____ (finish) hours ago.

3. It's still 0–0 at half-time — that boring, so it ____ (be) a great match.

4. He's limping badly — he ____ (injure) himself in the second half.

5. She looks devastated — they ____ (lose) the match.

6. The stadium is completely empty — the fans ____ (arrive) yet.

7. Nobody knows exactly what he said — but he ____ (give) a great half-time speech.

8. The ref waved play on — he ____ (see) the foul.

Exercise B — should have / shouldn't have

Rewrite each situation using **SHOULD HAVE** or **SHOULDN'T HAVE**.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. We didn't train hard enough — that's why we lost.

2. The coach substituted the top scorer in the sixtieth minute — that was a mistake.

3. I stayed up late watching the match and I feel terrible today.

4. The defender wasn't marking his player at the corner — he was completely free.

5. The referee didn't check the video — the goal was clearly offside.

6. They shouted at the ref and got a yellow card — that was a bad idea.

Exercise C — would rather (same or different subject?)

Choose the more natural completion.

1. It's cold outside. I'd rather ____ home.
(A) to stay
(B) stay
(C) stayed
2. The music is too loud. I'd rather you ____ it down.
(A) turn
(B) to turn
(C) turned
3. I'd rather we ____ about that yesterday's match — it's too painful.
(A) don't talk
(B) not talk
(C) didn't talk
4. She's exhausted. She'd rather ____ than train tonight.
(A) to sleep
(B) sleep
(C) sleeping

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5. I'd rather ____ to the game with you than watch it on TV alone.

- (A) go
- (B) to go
- (C) going

6. He's shy. He'd rather you ____ his name during the interview.

- (A) don't mention
- (B) not mention
- (C) didn't mention

Exercise D — a fan's post-match rant

Complete the text using **ONE** form from the box (each used once).

Word bank: must have · should have · can't have · might have · shouldn't have · would rather · could have · must have been · should have taken · wouldn't have

Honestly, we (1) ____ won that game. We were the better side for eighty minutes. Their goalkeeper (2) ____ made three world-class saves — I've never seen a performance like it. The referee, on the other hand, (3) ____ blowing his whistle. He (4) ____ seen the elbow in the ninety-first minute; the whole stadium saw it. Our captain (5) ____ argued with the fourth official for so long — that yellow card will cost us next week.

Our striker (6) ____ that penalty; he's been in poor form all season. And their winger — the one who scored the winner — (7) ____ trained a lot at set-pieces, because that free-kick was unstoppable. If we'd defended just a little deeper in the last five minutes, we (8) ____ conceded at all.

Anyway, next week we play the league leaders away. I (9) ____ not think about it right now, honestly. The manager (10) ____ furious in the dressing room. I don't envy him.

should have

must have

can't have

must have

shouldn't have

should have taken

might have

wouldn't have

would rather

must have been

Listening: post-match argument

Two friends argue about last night's final. Notice how many past modals and 'would rather' constructions they use.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

**Before you listen**

Predict: who do the speakers support — the winning or the losing side?

How likely are they to blame the referee, the coach, or their own players?

First listen — gist

1. What was the overall result for the team the speakers support?

2. Who does Sam blame first?

3. What does Alex prefer to do about Sunday's extra-time match?

Second listen — detail

1. Where should their defender have been standing?

2. What does Sam say about the penalty in the second half?

3. What does Alex say the attacker might have done first?

4. How big was their team's lead in November?

5. Why doesn't Alex want to go to the pub for the match?

6. What is Sam's prediction for the extra-time match?

A: Did you see the final last night? What a game!

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B: I know! I can't believe we lost. The ref must have been asleep.

A: Come on, that's not fair. Our defender should have marked him. He was completely unmarked at the back post.

B: Maybe. But that penalty in the second half — they can't have deserved that. It was never a foul.

A: I disagree. He definitely tripped him. He might have got a touch on the ball first, but his leg was out.

B: Well, we've thrown away the title. We were ten points clear in November.

A: I'd rather not talk about it, honestly. It's too painful.

B: Yeah, sorry. So — extra time is on Sunday. Are you coming to watch?

A: I'd rather watch it at home this time. Last time I went to the pub I lost my voice for three days.

B: Fair enough. My money's on a draw.

A: No chance. Someone has to win.

Speaking: 'the game / race / match I'll never forget'

In pairs, tell a story about ONE sports moment (as a player OR fan). You MUST use: (a) 1× must have, (b) 1× should have or shouldn't have, (c) 1× might/could have, (d) 1× would rather, (e) 2 sports vocab words from section 4.

1. **label:** The event · **hint:** 'The match I want to talk about was...'

2. **label:** The turning point · **hint:** 'And then, in the last minute...'

3. **label:** A deduction · **hint:** 'The other team must have...'

4. **label:** A regret · **hint:** 'We should have... / I shouldn't have...'

5. **label:** A preference for next time · **hint:** 'Next time, I'd rather...'

example: The match I'll never forget was a school-league basketball final. We were seven points down with two minutes to go. Our captain — who normally never scored — hit three consecutive three-pointers, and we won by two. Honestly, he must have practised in secret for weeks, because he wasn't that player during the season. Our coach should have started him from the beginning; he shouldn't have kept him on the bench for the first quarter. Anyway, we lifted the little school cup and I

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cried like a child. Next time I go back to that school gym, I'd rather sit in the crowd than play — I'm 34 now and I'd embarrass myself.

challenge: ■ Extra ■ if you slip in a natural 'can't have' AND make HAVE weak throughout.

Writing mini-task — 'my post-match verdict' (100–120 words)

Write a short opinion piece about a real (or imagined) match. You **MUST** use: 2× **MUST/CAN'T HAVE**, 2× **SHOULD/SHOULDN'T HAVE**, 1× **WOULD RATHER**, and 3 sports vocab words from section 4. Underline every target structure.

Wrap-up · three whistle-blast prompts

Three quick prompts. Pick **ONE** and finish it out loud. Class votes on the sharpest verdict.

1. **label:** Whistle 1 — the verdict · **prompt:** The most unfair result I've ever seen must have been...

2. **label:** Whistle 2 — the regret · **prompt:** A sport I really should have kept practising is...

3. **label:** Whistle 3 — the preference · **prompt:** Given the choice, I'd rather watch ____ than ____.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Workbook — home practice



Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Game on - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - sports & competition

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

1. The underdogs pulled off an incredible ____ to win 3-2.
(A) rout
(B) resurgence
(C) draw
(D) walkover
2. The ____ awarded a penalty after checking VAR.
(A) coach
(B) adversary
(C) referee
(D) spectator
3. She's been the ____ champion for three years running.
(A) retiring
(B) reigning
(C) rushing
(D) raging
4. The captain got ____ off in the first half for a bad tackle.
(A) sent
(B) gone
(C) dropped
(D) given
5. It ended 1-1 - a fair ____ for both sides.
(A) draw
(B) beat
(C) lose
(D) win
6. You don't 'win somebody' in English - you ____ them.
(A) defeat
(B) score
(C) concede
(D) compete

2. Vocabulary - officiating gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: award · concede · disallow · sent off · yellow card · extra time

1. The referee ____ a penalty after the handball.
2. Our team hasn't ____ a single goal in five matches.
3. The goal was ____ for offside after a video review.
4. He got a ____ for arguing with the fourth official.

5. She was ____ in the sixtieth minute - the team had to play with ten.
6. It was still 0-0 after ninety minutes, so we went to ____.

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Write 120-180 words: 'Is the win at all costs mentality in modern sports damaging to the spirit of fair play? Discuss the role of officiating and competition.'

Checklist:

- [] Use target lexis from the sports and officiating sections
- [] Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. mixed conditionals or inversion)
- [] Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- [] Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar - past modals for deduction

Choose the correct past modal.

1. She's celebrating with a medal. She ____.
(A) can't have won
(B) must have won
(C) should have won
2. The stadium is empty. The game ____ yet.
(A) must have started
(B) can't have started
(C) should have started
3. He's limping badly. He ____ himself in training.
(A) might have injured
(B) must have injured
(C) can't have injured

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4. The gates are locked. The match ____ hours ago.
(A) can't have finished
(B) must have finished
(C) might have finished
5. The ref waved play on - he ____ the elbow.
(A) must have seen
(B) can't have seen
(C) should have seen
6. Nobody's talking. They ____ the final.
(A) can't have lost
(B) must have lost
(C) should have lost
7. There's no way. He's the world number one - he ____ that badly.
(A) might have played
(B) can't have played
(C) must have played
8. She was ten metres clear at the last check-point. She ____ the race.
(A) can't have won
(B) must have won
(C) shouldn't have won

4. Grammar - should have / shouldn't have

Rewrite each situation as a criticism or regret using SHOULD HAVE or SHOULDN'T HAVE.

1. We didn't train hard enough. (regret)
2. The coach substituted the top scorer too early. (criticism)
3. I ate a huge meal before the race. (regret)
4. The defender wasn't marking his player at the corner.
5. You told the ref he was blind. That was a bad idea.
6. We didn't book the tickets in advance and they sold out.

5. Grammar - would rather

Rewrite each sentence using WOULD RATHER (with same or different subject).

1. I prefer to watch football at home.
2. I'd prefer it if you didn't shout at the TV.
3. She prefers to sleep than to train tonight.
4. I'd prefer it if we talked about something else.
5. He'd prefer not to go to the pub after the match.
6. I'd prefer it if the ref used VAR for every penalty.

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. He must had trained really hard.

2. I should of gone to the game.
3. They can't lost - I just saw them celebrating.
4. I'd rather to stay home tonight.
5. I'd rather you don't mention that match.
6. She might have to twist her ankle in the warm-up.

7. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In 1999, at the Champions League final in Barcelona, Manchester United were 1-0 down to Bayern Munich as the match entered injury time. Almost nobody in the stadium believed United could still win. And yet, in the space of two minutes, two substitutes - Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjær - both scored, and United lifted the trophy. Their manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, said afterwards that Bayern had 'defended too deep' and should have killed the game off in normal time. The German commentator, on live television, kept repeating that it 'can't have happened' - even as it was happening.

1. United were losing 1-0 going into injury time. [T / F / NG]
2. United won because of two goals by the same player. [T / F / NG]
3. Sir Alex Ferguson said Bayern should have attacked more in normal time. [T / F / NG]
4. The German commentator used 'can't have happened' during the match. [T / F / NG]
5. The two scoring substitutes were both English. [T / F / NG]
6. The match was played in Barcelona. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing - guided task

Write 80-100 words about a real (or imagined) match you'll never forget. Use at least 2 past modals (must/should/can't have) and 1 WOULD RATHER.

Checklist:

- ☐ 80-100 words
- ☐ 2+ past modals (must/should/can't have)
- ☐ 1+ WOULD RATHER structure
- ☐ At least 2 sports vocab words

9. Listening - post-marathon interview

Listen to the interview (interviewer + athlete - clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

Audio: Post-marathon interview · ≈ 1:30

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. Dictation - key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

Audio: Marathon interview - key sentences

1. I still ____ believe I've ____.
2. My coach said I ____ have run the last ten kilometres at a ____ pace.
3. She ____ have been carrying an ____ she didn't tell anyone about.
4. Some commentators said I ____ have ____ earlier.
5. I'd ____ trust my own ____.
6. I'd rather ____ than train right now.

11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2-5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. I'm sure he trained very hard. → He ____ very hard. (KEYWORD: MUST)
2. 2. It's impossible she saw the foul. → She ____ the foul. (KEYWORD: CAN'T)
3. 3. My advice is not to shout at the ref. Too late. → You ____ at the ref. (KEYWORD: SHOULDN'T)
4. 4. I prefer to watch it at home. → I ____ it at home. (KEYWORD: RATHER)
5. 5. Please don't talk about that match. → I ____ about that match. (KEYWORD: RATHER)
6. 6. Perhaps she injured her ankle in the warm-up. → She ____ her ankle in the warm-up. (KEYWORD: MIGHT)

12. ■ Challenge - the weak 'have' quiz

Which spoken version is CORRECT natural English?

1. 'He must have known'

- (A) 'must HAVE known'
 - (B) 'MUS-tuv known'
 - (C) 'must of known'
2. 'She should have called'
- (A) 'should HAVE called'
 - (B) 'SHOULD-uv called'
 - (C) 'should of called'
3. 'They can't have finished'
- (A) 'can't HAVE finished'
 - (B) 'CAN-tuv finished'
 - (C) 'can't of finished'
4. 'You could have won'
- (A) 'could HAVE won'
 - (B) 'COULD-uv won'
 - (C) 'could of won'
5. Which written form is CORRECT?
- (A) 'I should of gone.'
 - (B) 'I should have gone.'
 - (C) 'I should had gone.'
6. Which written form is CORRECT?
- (A) 'They might of arrived.'
 - (B) 'They might have arrived.'
 - (C) 'They might had arrived.'

13. ■ Challenge - odd one out

Three items share a category. Pick the ODD ONE OUT.

1. 1. Officiating vocabulary:
- (A) referee
 - (B) umpire
 - (C) coach
 - (D) VAR
2. 2. Ways to lose badly / one-sidedly:
- (A) a thrashing
 - (B) a walkover
 - (C) a comeback
 - (D) 6-0 defeat
3. 3. Certainty about the past:
- (A) must have
 - (B) can't have
 - (C) might have
 - (D) MUST have
4. 4. WOULD RATHER + bare infinitive (same subject):
- (A) I'd rather stay
 - (B) She'd rather sleep
 - (C) I'd rather you stayed

(D) We'd rather leave

14. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Write a 130-160 word 'match report or opinion piece' about a real or imagined game/race. Use AT LEAST 3 past modals (must / can't / should have) and 2 WOULD RATHER structures. Use at least 4 sports vocab words.

Checklist:

- [] 130-160 words
- [] 3+ past modals (must / can't / should have)
- [] 2+ WOULD RATHER structures
- [] 4+ sports vocab words from section 4

[illegible]

15. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I use **MUST HAVE / CAN'T HAVE / MIGHT HAVE** + past participle to speculate about the past.
- ☐ I use **SHOULD HAVE / SHOULDN'T HAVE** + past participle to express regret or criticism.
- ☐ I use **WOULD RATHER** + bare infinitive for same-subject preferences.
- ☐ I use **WOULD RATHER** + subject + past simple for different-subject preferences.
- ☐ I know that 'should of' is **WRONG** - the correct form is 'should **HAVE**'.
- ☐ I pronounce 'must have / should have / could have' with the weak /**■v**/.
- ☐ I can describe sports, competition and officiating with B2 vocabulary.

Game on — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — sports & competition

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

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(B) resurgence
(C) draw
(D) walkover
2. The ____ awarded a penalty after checking VAR.
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(B) adversary
(C) referee
(D) spectator
3. She's been the ____ champion for three years running.
(A) retiring
(B) reigning
(C) rushing
(D) raging
4. The captain got ____ off in the first half for a bad tackle.
(A) sent
(B) gone
(C) dropped
(D) given
5. It ended 1–1 — a fair ____ for both sides.
(A) draw
(B) beat
(C) lose
(D) win
6. You don't 'win somebody' in English — you ____ them.
(A) defeat
(B) score
(C) concede
(D) compete

2. Vocabulary — officiating gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: award · concede · disallow · sent off · yellow card · extra time

1. The referee ____ a penalty after the handball.
2. Our team hasn't ____ a single goal in five matches.
3. The goal was ____ for offside after a video review.
4. He got a ____ for arguing with the fourth official.

5. She was ____ in the sixtieth minute — the team had to play with ten.
6. It was still 0–0 after ninety minutes, so we went to ____.

2b. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Write 120–180 words: 'Is the win at all costs mentality in modern sports damaging to the spirit of fair play? Discuss the role of officiating and competition.'

Checklist:

- Use target lexis from the sports and officiating sections
- Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. mixed conditionals or inversion)
- Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

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3. Grammar — past modals for deduction

Choose the correct past modal.

1. She's celebrating with a medal. She ____.
(A) can't have won
(B) must have won
(C) should have won
2. The stadium is empty. The game ____ yet.
(A) must have started
(B) can't have started
(C) should have started
3. He's limping badly. He ____ himself in training.
(A) might have injured
(B) must have injured
(C) can't have injured

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4. The gates are locked. The match ____ hours ago.
(A) can't have finished
(B) must have finished
(C) might have finished
5. The ref waved play on — he ____ the elbow.
(A) must have seen
(B) can't have seen
(C) should have seen
6. Nobody's talking. They ____ the final.
(A) can't have lost
(B) must have lost
(C) should have lost
7. There's no way. He's the world number one — he ____ that badly.
(A) might have played
(B) can't have played
(C) must have played
8. She was ten metres clear at the last check-point. She ____ the race.
(A) can't have won
(B) must have won
(C) shouldn't have won

4. Grammar — should have / shouldn't have

Rewrite each situation as a criticism or regret using SHOULD HAVE or SHOULDN'T HAVE.

1. We didn't train hard enough. (regret)
2. The coach substituted the top scorer too early. (criticism)
3. I ate a huge meal before the race. (regret)
4. The defender wasn't marking his player at the corner.
5. You told the ref he was blind. That was a bad idea.
6. We didn't book the tickets in advance and they sold out.

5. Grammar — would rather

Rewrite each sentence using WOULD RATHER (with same or different subject).

1. I prefer to watch football at home.
2. I'd prefer it if you didn't shout at the TV.
3. She prefers to sleep than to train tonight.
4. I'd prefer it if we talked about something else.
5. He'd prefer not to go to the pub after the match.
6. I'd prefer it if the ref used VAR for every penalty.

6. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. He must had trained really hard.

2. I should of gone to the game.
3. They can't lost — I just saw them celebrating.
4. I'd rather to stay home tonight.
5. I'd rather you don't mention that match.
6. She might have to twist her ankle in the warm-up.

7. Reading — true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In 1999, at the Champions League final in Barcelona, Manchester United were 1–0 down to Bayern Munich as the match entered injury time. Almost nobody in the stadium believed United could still win. And yet, in the space of two minutes, two substitutes — Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjær — both scored, and United lifted the trophy. Their manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, said afterwards that Bayern had 'defended too deep' and should have killed the game off in normal time. The German commentator, on live television, kept repeating that it 'can't have happened' — even as it was happening.

1. United were losing 1–0 going into injury time. [T / F / NG]
2. United won because of two goals by the same player. [T / F / NG]
3. Sir Alex Ferguson said Bayern should have attacked more in normal time. [T / F / NG]
4. The German commentator used 'can't have happened' during the match. [T / F / NG]
5. The two scoring substitutes were both English. [T / F / NG]
6. The match was played in Barcelona. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing — guided task

Write 80–100 words about a real (or imagined) match you'll never forget. Use at least 2 past modals (must/should/can't have) and 1 WOULD RATHER.

Checklist:

- 80–100 words
- 2+ past modals (must/should/can't have)
- 1+ WOULD RATHER structure
- At least 2 sports vocab words

9. Listening — post-marathon interview

Listen to the interview (interviewer + athlete — clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

■ **Audio:** Post-marathon interview · ≈ 1:30

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. Dictation — key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

■ **Audio:** Marathon interview — key sentences

1. I still ____ believe I've ____.
2. My coach said I ____ have run the last ten kilometres at a ____ pace.
3. She ____ have been carrying an ____ she didn't tell anyone about.
4. Some commentators said I ____ have ____ earlier.
5. I'd ____ trust my own ____.
6. I'd rather ____ than train right now.

11. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2–5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. I'm sure he trained very hard. → He ____ very hard. (KEYWORD: MUST)
2. 2. It's impossible she saw the foul. → She ____ the foul. (KEYWORD: CAN'T)
3. 3. My advice is not to shout at the ref. Too late. → You ____ at the ref. (KEYWORD: SHOULDN'T)
4. 4. I prefer to watch it at home. → I ____ it at home. (KEYWORD: RATHER)
5. 5. Please don't talk about that match. → I ____ about that match. (KEYWORD: RATHER)
6. 6. Perhaps she injured her ankle in the warm-up. → She ____ her ankle in the warm-up. (KEYWORD: MIGHT)

12. ■ Challenge — the weak 'have' quiz

Which spoken version is CORRECT natural English?

1. 'He must have known'

- (A) 'must HAVE known'
 - (B) 'MUS-tuv known'
 - (C) 'must of known'
2. 'She should have called'
- (A) 'should HAVE called'
 - (B) 'SHOULD-uv called'
 - (C) 'should of called'
3. 'They can't have finished'
- (A) 'can't HAVE finished'
 - (B) 'CAN-tuv finished'
 - (C) 'can't of finished'
4. 'You could have won'
- (A) 'could HAVE won'
 - (B) 'COULD-uv won'
 - (C) 'could of won'
5. Which written form is CORRECT?
- (A) 'I should of gone.'
 - (B) 'I should have gone.'
 - (C) 'I should had gone.'
6. Which written form is CORRECT?
- (A) 'They might of arrived.'
 - (B) 'They might have arrived.'
 - (C) 'They might had arrived.'

13. ■ Challenge — odd one out

Three items share a category. Pick the ODD ONE OUT.

1. 1. Officiating vocabulary:
- (A) referee
 - (B) umpire
 - (C) coach
 - (D) VAR
2. 2. Ways to lose badly / one-sidedly:
- (A) a thrashing
 - (B) a walkover
 - (C) a comeback
 - (D) 6–0 defeat
3. 3. Certainty about the past:
- (A) must have
 - (B) can't have
 - (C) might have
 - (D) MUST have
4. 4. WOULD RATHER + bare infinitive (same subject):
- (A) I'd rather stay
 - (B) She'd rather sleep
 - (C) I'd rather you stayed

(D) We'd rather leave

14. ■ Challenge — extended writing

Write a 130–160 word 'match report or opinion piece' about a real or imagined game/race. Use AT LEAST 3 past modals (must / can't / should have) and 2 WOULD RATHER structures. Use at least 4 sports vocab words.

Checklist:

- 130–160 words
- 3+ past modals (must / can't / should have)
- 2+ WOULD RATHER structures
- 4+ sports vocab words from section 4

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15. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- I use **MUST HAVE / CAN'T HAVE / MIGHT HAVE** + past participle to speculate about the past.
- I use **SHOULD HAVE / SHOULDN'T HAVE** + past participle to express regret or criticism.
- I use **WOULD RATHER** + bare infinitive for same-subject preferences.
- I use **WOULD RATHER** + subject + past simple for different-subject preferences.
- I know that 'should of' is **WRONG** — the correct form is 'should **HAVE**'.
- I pronounce 'must have / should have / could have' with the weak /**ʌv**/.
- I can describe sports, competition and officiating with B2 vocabulary.



Answer key — Class Book

Reading: the greatest comeback nobody expected

1. (C) Losing 3–0
2. (B) About six minutes
3. (B) A penalty shoot-out
4. (B) A small tactical change and a call for pride
5. (B) The magic of sport is arguing about what MIGHT have happened

Vocabulary: sports & competition

1. beat
 2. draw
 3. sent
 4. resurgence
 5. referee
 6. reigning champion
 7. adversaries
 8. hard done by
1. Our two teams have been adversaries in the cup for a decade.
 2. Nobody expected the underdog to win the final.
 3. The defender was forced to concede a penalty in the last minute.
 4. After losing the first half, the team made an incredible resurgence.
 5. The fans felt they had been hard done by.

Grammar: past modals & would rather

1. must have won
 2. must have finished
 3. can't have been
 4. might have injured
 5. must have lost
 6. can't have arrived
 7. might have given
 8. can't have seen
1. We should have trained harder.
 2. The coach shouldn't have substituted the top scorer.
 3. I shouldn't have stayed up late watching the match.
 4. The defender should have been marking his player.
 5. The referee should have checked the video.
 6. They shouldn't have shouted at the ref.
1. (B) stay
 2. (C) turned
 3. (C) didn't talk
 4. (B) sleep
 5. (A) go
 6. (C) didn't mention

Listening: post-match argument

1. They lost — they threw away a big lead in the season.
 2. The referee — 'he must have been asleep'.
 3. Watch it at home — 'I'd rather watch it at home this time'.
1. Marking the player at the back post.
 2. 'They can't have deserved that — it was never a foul.'
 3. Got a touch on the ball before being tripped.
 4. Ten points clear.
 5. Because last time he lost his voice for three days.

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6. A draw ('My money's on a draw').

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Game on - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - sports & competition

1. **(B)** *resurgence*
2. **(C)** *referee*
3. **(B)** *reigning*
4. **(A)** *sent*
5. **(A)** *draw*
6. **(A)** *defeat*

2. Vocabulary - officiating gap-fill

1. **awarded**
2. **conceded**
3. **disallowed**
4. **yellow card**
5. **sent off**
6. **extra time**

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

The intense pressure on athletes to defeat their adversaries has arguably transformed the nature of competition. While fans love a dramatic resurgence or an underdog pulling off a rout, the obsession with victory often leads to unsporting behaviour. In such a high-stakes environment, the referee plays a crucial role. When a goal is disallowed or a player is sent off, the fallout can be immense, leading to accusations that the spirit of the game has been lost. Even the reigning champion must eventually concede that fair play is as important as the final score. Furthermore, the introduction of technology like VAR was intended to ensure fairness, yet it often feels like it drains the emotion from the match, even in extra time. We must ask whether we would rather see a technically perfect game or one where the human element-and the occasional draw-is accepted. Ultimately, sport should be about more than just a walkover; it should be about the integrity of the contest itself.

3. Grammar - past modals for deduction

1. **(B)** *must have won*
2. **(B)** *can't have started*
3. **(A)** *might have injured*
4. **(B)** *must have finished*
5. **(B)** *can't have seen*
6. **(B)** *must have lost*
7. **(B)** *can't have played*
8. **(B)** *must have won*

4. Grammar - should have / shouldn't have

1. *We should have trained harder.*
2. *The coach shouldn't have substituted the top scorer (so early).*
3. *I shouldn't have eaten a huge meal before the race.*
4. *The defender should have been marking his player.*
5. *You shouldn't have told the ref he was blind.*
6. *We should have booked the tickets in advance.*

5. Grammar - would rather

1. *I'd rather watch football at home.*
2. *I'd rather you didn't shout at the TV.*
3. *She'd rather sleep than train tonight.*
4. *I'd rather we talked about something else.*
5. *He'd rather not go to the pub after the match.*
6. *I'd rather the ref used VAR for every penalty.*

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

1. *He must HAVE trained really hard.*
2. *I should HAVE gone to the game.*
3. *They can't HAVE LOST - I just saw them celebrating.*
4. *I'd rather STAY home tonight.*
5. *I'd rather you DIDN'T mention that match.*
6. *She might HAVE TWISTED her ankle in the warm-up.*

7. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **T**
5. **NG**
6. **T**

8. Writing - guided task

Sample answer

The match I'll never forget was the 2018 World Cup semi-final between Croatia and England. I was watching in a Zagreb bar and the noise, when Mandžukić scored, must have been heard from space. England should have closed the game down after their early goal - they were the better side for forty minutes - but they didn't. Croatia can't have believed how much space they had in extra time. Honestly, I'd rather remember that night than any club match I've ever seen. The whole city stayed out until sunrise.

9. Listening - post-marathon interview

1. *It hasn't sunk in yet - she still can't believe she's won.*
2. *Tenth.*
3. *A personal-best pace.*
4. *She must have been carrying an injury she didn't tell anyone about.*
5. *Attacked earlier in the race.*
6. *She'd rather trust her own strategy - attacking at 15 km could have made her 'blow up'.*
7. *Sleep rather than train.*

10. Dictation - key sentences

1. *can't / won*
2. *must / personal-best*
3. *must / injury*
4. *should / attacked*
5. *rather / strategy*
6. *sleep*

11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. *must have trained*
2. *can't have seen*
3. *shouldn't have shouted*
4. *'d rather watch*
5. *'d rather you didn't talk*
6. *might have injured*

12. ■ Challenge - the weak 'have' quiz

1. **(B)** *'MUS-tuv known'*
2. **(B)** *'SHOULD-uv called'*
3. **(B)** *'CAN-tuv finished'*
4. **(B)** *'COULD-uv won'*
5. **(B)** *'I should have gone.'*
6. **(B)** *'They might have arrived.'*

13. ■ Challenge - odd one out

1. **(C)** *coach*
2. **(C)** *a comeback*
3. **(C)** *might have*
4. **(C)** *I'd rather you stayed*

14. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Sample answer

Last night's derby was a walkover - and honestly, we should have won by more. Their goalkeeper must have made ten saves in the first half alone; on any other night three of those go in. Our new striker can't have played a better game: two goals, an assist, and a masterclass in holding the ball up. The referee, though, was the story. He should have shown their captain a straight red for the elbow in the second half - instead a yellow card, and they finished the match with eleven. Our coach was diplomatic afterwards ('mistakes happen, we'll move on'), but I'd rather he told the truth. We deserved that title-decider. Next week we play the league leaders away. I'd rather we approached that match with the same intensity - because if we don't, we'll be second again.

15. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

Game on — Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary — sports & competition

1. **(B)** *resurgence*
2. **(C)** *referee*
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1. **(B)** *must have won*
2. **(B)** *can't have started*
3. **(A)** *might have injured*
4. **(B)** *must have finished*
5. **(B)** *can't have seen*
6. **(B)** *must have lost*
7. **(B)** *can't have played*
8. **(B)** *must have won*

4. Grammar — should have / shouldn't have

1. *We should have trained harder.*
2. *The coach shouldn't have substituted the top scorer (so early).*
3. *I shouldn't have eaten a huge meal before the race.*
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5. *You shouldn't have told the ref he was blind.*
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1. *I'd rather watch football at home.*
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4. *I'd rather we talked about something else.*
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4. *I'd rather STAY home tonight.*
5. *I'd rather you DIDN'T mention that match.*
6. *She might HAVE TWISTED her ankle in the warm-up.*

7. Reading — true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **T**
5. **NG**
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Sample answer

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1. *can't / won*
2. *must / personal-best*
3. *must / injury*
4. *should / attacked*
5. *rather / strategy*
6. *sleep*

11. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

1. *must have trained*
2. *can't have seen*
3. *shouldn't have shouted*
4. *'d rather watch*
5. *'d rather you didn't talk*
6. *might have injured*

12. ■ Challenge — the weak 'have' quiz

1. **(B)** *'MUS-tuv known'*
2. **(B)** *'SHOULD-uv called'*
3. **(B)** *'CAN-tuv finished'*
4. **(B)** *'COULD-uv won'*
5. **(B)** *'I should have gone.'*
6. **(B)** *'They might have arrived.'*

13. ■ Challenge — odd one out

1. **(C)** *coach*
2. **(C)** *a comeback*
3. **(C)** *might have*
4. **(C)** *I'd rather you stayed*

14. ■ Challenge — extended writing*Sample answer*

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