



GRAMMAR: MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST: answer key worksheet

Fill in the gaps with a suitable modal verb in the present or past form. The forms can be affirmative or negative. Write which the use of the modal verb is in each sentence.

- a) He **can't be** French. His French is terrible. **Certainty/ Present**
- b) The kids are calm today. They **must be** tired. **Certainty/ Present**
- c) Although Leila was very hungry, she didn't eat very much. She **might not have liked** the food. **Possibility/ Past**
- d) The phone is ringing. It **must be** Mary. She promised she would call. **Certainty/ Present**
- e) John had a terrible accident. He **should have stopped** when the traffic lights were red. **Advice/ Past**
- f) I don't know why she got so many bad grades. She **might have been** lazy studying. **Possibility/ Past**
- g) I didn't know you needed help. You **should have told** me. **Advice/ Past**
- h) I am so tired. I need some rest. I think I **should take** a week off. **Advice/ Present**
- i) He **could run** so fast when he was young. **Ability/ Past**
- j) Nancy **can't have gone** on holiday. I have just met her in the street. **Certainty/ Past**