

2-15 DEGREES OF CERTAINTY: PAST TIME

<p>PAST TIME: AFFIRMATIVE -- <i>Why wasn't Mary in class?</i></p> <p>(a) 100%: She <i>was</i> sick.</p> <p>(b) 95%: She <i>must have been</i> sick.</p> <p>(c) less than 50%: { She <i>may have been</i> sick. She <i>might have been</i> sick. She <i>could have been</i> sick.</p>	<p>In (a): The speaker is sure.</p> <p>In (b): The speaker is making a logical conclusion; e.g., "I saw Mary yesterday and found out that she was sick. I assume that is the reason why she was absent. I can't think of any other good reason."</p> <p>In (c): The speaker is mentioning one possibility.</p>
<p>PAST TIME: NEGATIVE</p> <p>(d) 100%: Sam <i>wasn't</i> hungry.</p> <p>(e) 99%: { Sam <i>couldn't have been</i> hungry. Sam <i>can't have been</i> hungry.</p> <p>(f) 95%: Sam <i>must not have been</i> hungry.</p> <p>(g) less than 50%: { Sam <i>may not have been</i> hungry. Sam <i>might not have been</i> hungry.</p>	<p>In (d): The speaker is sure.</p> <p>In (e): The speaker believes that it is impossible for Sam to have been hungry.</p> <p>In (f): The speaker is making a logical conclusion.</p> <p>In (g): The speaker is mentioning one possibility.</p>

2-16 DEGREES OF CERTAINTY: FUTURE TIME

<p>100% sure: Kay <i>will do</i> well on the test. → (<i>The speaker feels sure.</i>)</p> <p>90% sure: { She <i>should do</i> well on the test. She <i>ought to do</i> well on the test. } → (<i>The speaker is almost sure.</i>)</p> <p>less than 50% sure: { She <i>may do</i> well on the test. She <i>might do</i> well on the test. She <i>could do</i> well on the test. } → (<i>The speaker is guessing.</i>)</p>	
<p>(a) Kay has been studying hard. She <i>should do/ought to do</i> well on the test tomorrow.</p>	<p><i>Should/ought to</i> can be used to express expectations about future events.</p> <p>In (a): The speaker is saying, "Kay will probably do well on the test. I expect her to do well. That is what I think will happen."</p>
<p>(b) I wonder why Sue hasn't written us. We <i>should have heard/ought to have heard</i> from her last week.</p>	<p>The past form of <i>should/ought to</i> is used to mean that the speaker expected something that did not occur.</p>

2-17 PROGRESSIVE FORMS OF MODALS

<p>(a) Let's just knock on the door lightly. Tom <i>may be sleeping</i>. (<i>right now</i>)</p> <p>(b) All of the lights in Ann's room are turned off. She <i>must be sleeping</i>. (<i>right now</i>)</p>	<p>Progressive form, present time: <i>modal + be + -ing.</i> Meaning: <i>in progress right now.</i></p>
<p>(c) Sue wasn't at home last night when we went to visit her. She <i>might have been studying</i> at the library.</p> <p>(d) Al wasn't at home last night. He has a lot of exams coming up soon, and he is also working on a term paper. He <i>must have been studying</i> at the library.</p>	<p>Progressive form, past time: <i>modal + have been + -ing.</i> Meaning: <i>in progress at a time in the past.</i></p>