

Modals: In Passive Form

FORM

Passive **modal + be + past participle**

Past Passive **modal + have been + past participle**

USE

Modals in the passive form can be formed in the affirmative, negative or interrogative. Modals of advice, possibility and necessity can all be used. (*will, can, should, may, had better, have to, must, ought to, be supposed to*) As with other passives, **modals are used in the passive voice** to emphasize the recipient of the action in a sentence, rather than the agent or ‘doer’ of the action.

EXAMPLES

The dinosaurs may have been destroyed by a huge natural disaster.
This bill has to be paid by Friday.
Her apartment must not have been painted recently. (negative)
Can these pants be returned? (interrogative)

Complete the sentences using the modals provided in the ACTIVE or the PASSIVE voice and the correct tense.

1. We tried, but we _____ (couldn't + start) the car. Maybe it needs a new battery.
2. The car _____ (couldn't + start). The mechanic will fix it today.
3. I told you the cake _____ (must + keep) in the fridge!
4. You _____ (must + keep) the juice in the fridge after it's been opened.
5. I can't find my keys. I _____ (might + leave) them on my desk at work.
6. I found this book on the desk. It _____ (might + leave) by another student.
7. My husband _____ (have to + fix) the kitchen sink tonight.
8. The car _____ (have to + fix) before I can drive it again.
9. Do you think the apartment _____ (should + paint) before we move in?
10. They _____ (should + paint) the room before they move the furniture in.
11. When you check in to the hotel you _____ (may + ask) for identification.
12. Students, be prepared! I _____ (may + ask) you to write your answers on the board.