

## 1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- We  (plan/go) on a trip round the harbour, but the weather was too bad to go out.
- I  (going/finish) my project tonight, but Fran called and we started talking!
- They told me I  (not be/tell) him about the surprise party when I saw him.
- Just as I  (point/phone) her, Gran called me!
- The students  (supposed/meet) outside the town hall yesterday.
- A year later, the situation  (will/be) quite different, so it came as no surprise when they accepted the offer.
- I  (do) my Spanish oral exam later that afternoon, so I couldn't go to the beach.
- We  (not going/wake) you, but the dog started barking and you got up.
- They  (due/have) the exam interview at 10:30, but they didn't get there in time.
- Susie  (intend/apply) for a university abroad, but in the end she applied locally.
- We didn't have time to waste because the coach  (about/leave) any minute.

## 2 Complete the second sentence using the word in capitals so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between three and six words in each gap.

- Was he flying to Madrid that week? **INTEND**  
Did he  to Madrid that week?
- The doctor was going to see the patient last night, but got stuck in surgery. **HAVE**  
The doctor  the patient last night, but got stuck in surgery.
- They were buying their air tickets tonight. **GOING**  
They  their air tickets tonight.
- Did you know beforehand the party was going to be a huge success? **WOULD**  
Did you know beforehand the party  a huge success?
- It was her intention to study medicine. **ON**  
She  medicine.
- I was expecting your call. **SUPPOSED**  
You  me.
- He was about to make an important decision that day. **VERGE**  
He  an important decision that day.
- They were planning on opening the new restaurant last month. **DUE**  
They  the new restaurant last month.

## Speculating

We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is almost certain/highly likely, probable or possible (or not) in the present, past or future.

### Speculating about the present

- We use **must** + infinitive to show we are sure something is true and we have present evidence for our belief:  
*You've had a long journey. You **must be** tired.*
- We use **must** + **be** + **-ing** to show we are sure something is now in progress:  
*He's got a very good job. He **must be earning** a lot of money.*
- We use **will** + infinitive to say that we think something is highly probable or true in the present:  
*Oh, there's the doorbell. That **'ll be** John – he said he was coming at eight.*  
*The thieves **will be** out of the country by now.*
- We use **may/might/could** + infinitive or **may/might/could** + **be** + **-ing** to show something is possible in the present, but not certain. **Might** and **could** indicate a lesser degree of likelihood than **may**:  
*What you say **may be** true.*  
*He **may win** the tournament.*  
*Mary **might be working** at home today. (Perhaps she is working at home, I'm not sure.)*  
*You **could be** right, I'm not sure. (It's possible.)*
- We use **may/might well** + infinitive to strengthen the possibility expressed:  
*What you say **may well be** true.*
- We use **may/might not** + infinitive (NOT **could not**) in negative sentences:  
*The situation **may/might not be** as bad as it looks.*
- We use **can** + infinitive to make general statements about things that are theoretically possible and sometimes happen:  
*Temperatures in winter **can reach** –40 degrees. (Sometimes temperatures reach –40 degrees in winter, but not always.)*
- We use **can't** + infinitive (NOT **mustn't**) to show something is impossible:  
*That **can't be** John – he's too tall!*

### Speculating about the past

- We use **must** + **have** + past participle to make logical deductions about the past and **must** + **have been** + **-ing** to make logical deductions about an activity in progress in the past:  
*He passed the exam with flying colours. He **must have had** a good teacher. He **must have been revising** for weeks.*
- We use **will** + **have** + past participle to express presumptions about the past:  
*As you **will have noticed**, the report contains some factual mistakes. (You have probably noticed./I'm sure you have noticed.)*