MODAL VERBS + PERFECT INFINITIVE (PI)

Form: MODAL + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE
(jistotní modalita: epistemic modality)
- modal verbs + PI are often used:
  - to refer to the past
  - to refer to unreal situations
  - to show that the activity was different from what we wanted
  - to say how confident we are that something has happened

1. MUST + PI: expresses deduction, a logical conclusion, probability:
   - It is very cold; it must have snowed in the mountains.
   - I saw him leaving; he must have killed him.
   - He had to kill him.

2. CAN´T/COULDN´T + PI: expresses negative deduction:
   - She can´t have passed such a difficult exam.
   - CAN + PI: expresses impossibility or disbelief:
     - The boy can´t have given a better answer than this one.
     - X He couldn´t give..., X He wasn´t able to give...
     - She can´t have missed the bus.

3. COULD + PI:
   - You could have done it. (past reference: didn´t do it)
   - You could do it. (future reference: possibility)

4. MAY + PI: expresses the possibility that an action took place in the past:
   - The little girl may have lost the key. (It is possible that she lost the key.)
   - (with may – action is more probable than with might)

5. MIGHT + PI: expresses a past possibility
   - Our neighbours might have heard some noises when our car was stolen.
   - MIGHT + PI continuous: expresses a possible action wh. was continuing at a certain moment in the past:
     - The kids might have been watching a cartoon at that time.

6. NEEDN´T + PI: expresses an unnecessary action, which was, nevertheless, performed:
   - I needn´t have knocked at the door since, in this way, I awoke the baby. (but I knocked)
   - You needn´t have bought the flowers.
   - X didn´t need to: show that the action was not necessary but it wasn´t performed either:
     - I didn´t need to knock at the door since it was open. (so I didn´t knock)

7. SHOULD + PI: indicates that the past obligation was not fulfilled or carried out:
   - You should have locked the door before leaving the house. (But you didn´t lock it.)

8. OUGHT TO + PI: expresses an unfulfilled duty or obligation:
   - Paul ought to have waited until the lights were green before he crossed the street. (But he didn´t wait.)

9. WOULD + PI: 3rd conditional I would have gone to university if my parents had had more money. (The speaker didn´t go to university.)
PERFECT INFINITIVE + MODAL VERBS - SENTENCES:

1. A: I saw a ghost last night.
   B: You (not see) a ghost; there aren´t any ghosts. You (dream) it.
2. It is possible that a child broke the window.
3. A: I´ve had a toothache for two days.
   B: You (go) to the dentist when it started.
4. A: As I was standing in the hall your dog bit me.
   B: It (not be) my dog; he was with me all day. It (be) my brother´s dog.
5. A: I wonder why he didn´t answer?
   B: Possibly he didn´t understand the question.
6. I gave him a tip, which was not necessary.
7. A: The plane is late; I wonder what has happened?
   B: Possibly it was delayed by fog.
8. A: I waited from 8.00 to 8.30 under the clock and he says he waited from 8.00 to 8.30 under the clock, and we didn´t see each other!
   B: You (wait) under different clocks! There are two in the station, you know.
9. We (start) yesterday (this was the plan); but the flight was cancelled because of the fog, so we´re still here, as you see.
10. A: I left my car here under the NO Parking sign; and now it´s gone. It (be) stolen!
    B: Not necessarily. The police (drive) it away.
11. A: We´ve run out of petrol!
    B: I´m not surprised. I noticed that the tank was nearly empty wshen we left home.
    A: You (tell) me! WE (get) petrol at the last village. Now we´ve got a 10-mile walk!
12. A: Look at this beautiful painting! Only a very great artist (paint) such a picture!
    B: Nonsense! A child of five (paint) it with his eyes shut.
13. A: You don´t think it (be started) deliberately?
    B: Well, I suppose it (be). (It is possible.) But who would do a thing like that?
14. There is only one set of footprints, so the kidnapper (carry) his prisoner out. He not (do) it in daylight or he (be) seen. He (wait) till dark.