Past Modal Verbs of Deduction Exercise

She must have gone out - There is strong evidence.
I might have made a mistake - There is a possibility that I made a mistake.
He can't have been there. - It's impossible.
You should have apologised - A criticism
You shouldn't have said that. - A criticism

A Fill the gaps with must have, might have or can't have.

1. She ................................studied really hard. She passed all her exams with excellent grades.
2. You ................................ shouted at him. He’ll never forgive you.
3. He ................................ arrived by now. It's only a 20 minute journey.
4. The concert was fantastic. You really ......................... come.
5. The boss is in a terrible mood. The meeting ......................... been good.
6. Sarah ......................... been so happy when she found out she was being promoted.
7. I had to wait 45 minutes for a bus yesterday. There ......................... been an accident or maybe a strike.
8. He ......................... bought a new car. He doesn't have any money.
9. Andrew did no revision for the exam but he's passed. I think he ......................... cheated.
10. I left my bicycle in front of the library and it's disappeared. Someone ......................... stolen it.
11. Clara was very upset with you yesterday. You ......................... apologised for saying she was lazy.
12. John has forgotten about the meeting. We ......................... reminded him about it yesterday.
13. I'm sorry but Samantha isn't here. She ......................... already left the office.
14. You ......................... tried to fix the roof yourself. You might have fallen off and been badly injured.
15. He ............................ known it was your birthday. Otherwise, I'm sure he would have wished you a happy day.

B Now write some examples of your own.

1. ..........................................................................................................................................
2. ..........................................................................................................................................
3. ..........................................................................................................................................
4. ..........................................................................................................................................

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Answers

1. She **must have** studied really hard. She passed all her exams with excellent grades.
2. You **shouldn't have** shouted at him. He'll never forgive you.
3. He **must have** arrived by now. It's only a 20 minute journey.
4. The concert was fantastic. You really **should have** come.
5. The boss is in a terrible mood. The meeting **can't have** been good.
6. Sarah **must have** been so happy when she found out she was being promoted.
7. I had to wait 45 minutes for a bus yesterday. There **might have** been an accident or maybe a strike.
8. He **can't have** bought a new car. He doesn't have any money.
9. Andrew did no revision for the exam but he's passed. I think he **might have** cheated.
10. I left my bicycle in front of the library and it's disappeared. Someone **must have** stolen it.
11. Clara was very upset with you yesterday. You **should have** apologised for saying she was lazy.
12. John has forgotten about the meeting. We **should have** reminded him about it yesterday.
13. I'm sorry but Samantha isn't here. She **must have** already left the office.
14. You **shouldn't have** tried to fix the roof yourself. You might have fallen off and been badly injured.
15. He **can't have** known it was your birthday. Otherwise, I'm sure he would have wished you a happy day.