

# Language summary

## Grammar

### Past modals for speculating

#### Statements

He	<b>must</b>	<b>have missed</b>	the meeting.
You	<b>might</b>	<b>have met</b>	her.
She	<b>could</b>	<b>have gotten</b>	a better job.
They	<b>couldn't</b>	<b>have been</b>	at school.

- Use *must, might, could, couldn't + have* + past participle to speculate about the past and show different degrees of certainty.
- Use *must have* + past participle to speculate with certainty about what happened.
- Use *might have* or *could have* + past participle to speculate with less certainty about what happened.
- Use *couldn't have* + past participle to speculate with certainty about what wasn't possible.

### Embedded questions

#### Wh- questions

How many **were stolen**?  
When **did** she **disappear**?  
Where **were** the rocks?

#### Embedded Wh- questions

Do you know **how many were stolen**?  
Do you know **when she disappeared**?  
Can you tell me **where the rocks were**?

#### Yes / no questions

**Is** there a reward?  
**Have** they **found** the plane?  
**Did** they **hear** the news?

#### Embedded yes / no questions

Do you know **if there is a reward**?  
Do you know **if they found the plane**?  
Can you tell me **if they heard the news**?

- An embedded question is a question included in another question. Embedded questions are more formal than direct questions.
- Use subject-verb word order in embedded questions.  
Direct question: *When did they build the pyramids?*  
Embedded question: *Do you know when they built the pyramids?*
- Questions that already have subject-verb word order do not change when they are embedded.  
Direct question: *Who built the pyramids?*  
Embedded question: *Do you know who built the pyramids?*
- Use *if* to introduce embedded yes / no questions.  
Direct question: *Did the plane go down in the Atlantic Ocean?*  
Indirect question: *Do you know if the plane went down in the Atlantic Ocean?*

## Vocabulary

### Suffixes: **-ful** and **-less**

careful  
careless  
fearful  
fearless  
harmful  
harmless  
hopeful  
hopeless  
meaningful  
meaningless  
powerful  
powerless  
thoughtful  
thoughtless  
useful  
useless

### Mysterious events

abduction  
disappearance  
discovery  
escape  
explosion  
theft

## Functions

### Expressing probability

It's likely . . .  
I'm pretty sure that . . .  
It's very probable that . . .

### Expressing improbability

I doubt that . . .  
It's doubtful that . . .  
It's highly unlikely that . . .