

Could have & Might have

Could have indicates a past possibility or opportunity

We could have hired more staff last year to help with the increased workload but we decided to use our budget for upgrades to our office space..

Subject could (not) have + past participle + information.

Could + subject + have + past participle + information?.

Might have indicates a hypothetical result dependent on other possible but unreal past actions.

Cheryl might have pursued a career in finance had she known earlier that it was something she had a natural talent for.

Subject might (not) have + past participle + information.

Might + subject + have + past participle + information?.

Might have often uses *had + subject + past participle (eg. had she known)* in the reason why the first action didn't happen.

After stating a past possibility with *could have*, you can use *"but"* to state the real outcome/option that was chosen.

Practice assignment:

- Think of 4 things your company could have done differently last year. What did they do instead?
- What might you have done differently in your career?
- Think of 3 hypothetical situations about your office (eg. your boss quit, many staff were laid off, the budget increased). How might these things have impacted your work?

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