

Conversation Lesson

This is an example of an advanced conversation lesson designed to practice speculation and deduction and talking about possibilities and probabilities. The student was asked to follow this link <http://www.emigennis.com/dyatlov-pass/> and to read the comic before the lesson. We also revised and practiced pronunciation of 'ed endings for past tense verbs. The student was also provided with links for further reading and some relevant grammar practice exercises.

Teacher's notes and corrections during the lesson are **green**.

The student's notes made during and after the lesson are **purple**.

Victoria L Lesson 16 Tuesday 21st April 2015 14.30-15.30

Speculation and Deduction - Possibility and Probability



Tell me about some conspiracy theories you've heard.

landed on the moon - The moon landing

Pronunciation - UFO "you eff oh"

Tell me what you know about the Dyatlov Pass Incident?

What is the difference between **incident** and **accident**?

In 1959, ten people, mostly university students, went on a skiing expedition in Russia's Ural Mountains. One of them returned early due to ill health. The other nine never returned. Eventually their bodies were discovered. Five of them, had frozen to death but the other four were found with more mysterious injuries. Their last diary entries show that they were all in good spirits. But on the night of the 1st/2nd of February they appeared to have torn their way out of their tent from the inside and fled towards a nearby forest leaving behind vital clothing and equipment. Investigators failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for the deaths, concluding that the group had died as a result of a "Compelling unknown force". The case was then closed and filed as "Top Secret". There

are a great many theories about what happened to the group including UFOs, secret military technology, radiation poisoning, and abominable snowmen. There is even a foundation working toward having the case reopened but after more than half a century, the mystery remains.

I've / I'd never heard of it.

Pronunciation - ski - "skee" "skeeing"

hoax - It was a hoax - was it a hoax?

nearby "near-by"

good spirits = good mood / happy / cheerful

fled - to flee - run away - try to escape

abominable snowman = yeti

Remember pronunciation of past tense 'ed endings.

discovered - "discover'd" appeared - "appear'd" happened - "happen'd" reopened - "reopen'd"

*

What do you think happened to the group?

~~I don't have idea~~ - I have no idea / I've got no idea / I haven't got a clue / who knows?

~~they fell in a situation that they didn't had to be in~~

they fell into / they ended up in

That might have **been** caused by something...



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MODAL verbs for speculation and deduction - possibility and probability.

must, could, may, may not, might, might not, can't, and couldn't

1) If you are sure that something is true (95%-99%) must

Present tense

It **must be** a government cover up.

Past tense

They **must have been** murdered!

What happened to the ~~tongue of the woman?~~ woman's tongue? It must have been animals.

2) If you believe something is or is not possible (30%-50%)

could / may / may not / might / and might not. *Remember we do not use **could not** here.

Present tense

It **might be** a hoax

It **could be** a story invented by the press

They **may** all be liars.

It **might not** be anything mysterious

There **may not** be any reason to suspect a crime was committed

They could be ~~spyes~~ spies

responsible ~~of~~ for

To ~~make them silent~~ better - to silence them

Past Tense

It **might have been** an inside job

There **may have been** a serial killer on the loose

Local people **could have killed** them.

There **might not have been** a thorough investigation

There **may not have been** enough resources to investigate properly.

They might have been ~~on~~ going the wrong way

They might have been on the wrong trail on purpose

They tried to resist ~~to~~ the attack

3) If you are sure that something is impossible
are both present and past

can't / couldn't * Can't and couldn't

unexplained - incomprehensible

Present tense

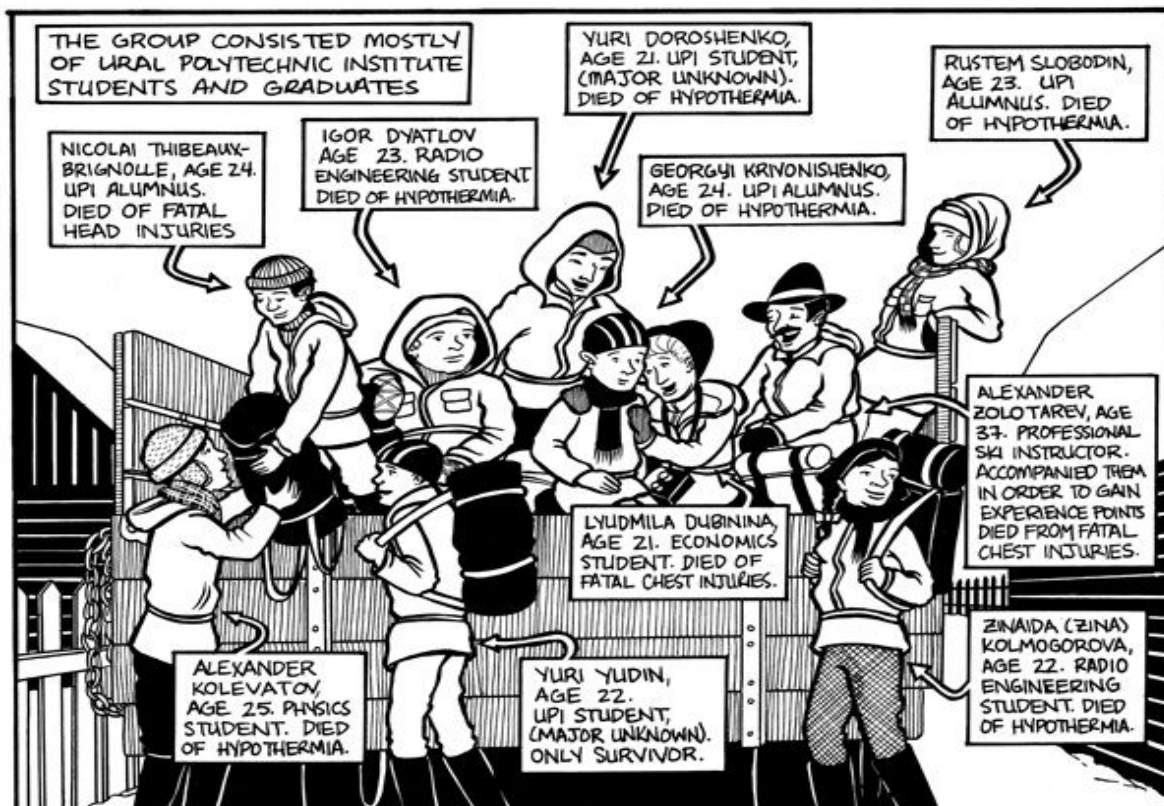
That **can't** be true.

It **couldn't** be the government's fault

Past Tense

It **can't have been** an escaped criminal.

It **couldn't** have been a UFO.



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Speculate about the fate of the group using each of the following constructions

could have

Bears or ~~wolves~~ **wolves** could have attacked / frightened them.

(~~savage~~-wild animals)

Pronunciation “attack’t” “frighten’d”

might have

They might have gone crazy. (gone mad / gone insane /lost their minds)

may have

They may have been hallucinating / had hallucinations.

might not have

The investigators might not have released all of the information “release’t”

may not have

The government may not have told the truth

must have

They must have been ~~very afraid~~ **terrified**.

can't have

They can't have been killed by yetis.

“kill’d”

couldn't have

It couldn't have been a UFO that frightened them.

“frighten’d”

mustn't have

They mustn't have understood the risks.

Further reading

http://www.themoscowtimes.com/arts_n_ideas/article/solving-the-dyatlov-pass-mystery/518200.html

Links for extra practice

<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-1.html>

<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-2.html>

<http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar/4g3-modals-deduction-exercise.php>

Pronunciation practice 'ed endings

http://www.speakmethod.com/esl_advanced_ed_pronunciation.html