Modal and Perfect Tenses

**Past modal perfect tense** is used when it is unknown if the subject performed an action in the past, but it’s possible, necessary, or likely. The past modal perfect tense begins with any past tense modal (could, should, would, might) followed by “have,” plus a past tense action verb (regular verbs ending with “-ed” and many irregular verbs ending with -en). For example,

*The bride would have landed on the cake...*
*The bride’s maids should have seen Gloria on the floor...*

Write the correct form of the action verb in parenthesis in the blank.

Could have (select) _______________________
Should have (got) _______________________
Might have (rise) _______________________
Would have (scrub) _______________________
Could have (inspect) _______________________
Should have (keep) _______________________

**Present modal perfect tense** is used when it is unknown if the subject performed an action prior to some designated point in its future OR past, but it’s possible, necessary or likely that the subject will or did. A present modal perfect tense begins with any present tense modal (will, may, shall, must) followed by “have,” plus the past tense of the action verb (regular verbs ending with “-ed” and many irregular verbs ending with “-en”). For example,

*Gloria may have torn her wedding dress.*

May have (wiggle) _______________________
Shall have (sneeze) _______________________
Will have (beat) _______________________
May have (sell) _______________________
Shall have (shrink) _______________________

**Past modal progressive tense** is used when it is unknown if the subject is in the process of performing an action, but it’s possible, necessary or likely. The past modal progressive tense begins with any past tense modal (could, should, would, might) followed by “be,” plus the “-ing” form of the action verb. For example,

*The fight might be ruining the entire evening.*
Should be (swoop) ______________________
Might be (embarrass) ______________________
Would be (weep) ______________________
Could be (sweat) ______________________

Present modal progressive tense is used when it is unknown if the subject will be in the process of performing an action OR plans to take an action at some point in the future, but it’s possible, necessary or likely that he is or will. Present modal progressive tense begins with any present tense modal (will, may, shall, can, must) followed by “be,” plus the present participle “-ing” form of the action verb. For example,

*The burly young man must be thinking of his senior prom.*

Will be (sneer) ______________________
May be (imbibe) ______________________
Shall be (demonstrate) ______________________
Can be (sting) ______________________
Must be (split) ______________________

Past perfect progressive tense is used to indicate that at some point in the past, the subject was in the process of performing an action, but the action is over. The past perfect progressive tense begins with “had” followed by “been,” plus the “-ing” form of the action verb. For example,

*Gloria had been planning this wedding for a long time.*

Had been (answer) ______________________
Had been (observe) ______________________
Had been (set) ______________________
Had been (hold) ______________________
Had been (forgive) ______________________

Present perfect progressive tense indicates that at some point in the past, the subject began performing an action, and the subject continues to, even up to the present, to perform the action. The present perfect progressive tense begins with “has” (singular) or “have” (plural) followed by “been,” plus the “-ing” form of the action verb. For example,
René has been puzzling over the look on Gloria’s face ever since the burly young man arrived.

Circle has, have, or had depending on which one agrees with the subject. Also, write the correct form of the verb in parenthesis.

Roy (has/have/had) been (lie) __________________
Singers (have/had/has) been (disagree) __________________
She (has/had/have) been (catch) __________________
The guests (have/has/had) been (arrive) __________________
They (have/has/had) been (switch) __________________

Write two sentences for each of the following that use the verb tense indicated and an action verb of your choice. Use a different action verb in each sentence.

1. Past perfect progressive (had + been + -ing)
   
2. Past modal perfect (could/would/should/might + have + -ed or -en)
   
3. Present modal progressive (will/may/shall/can/must + be + -ing)
   
4. Past modal progressive (could/would/should/might + be + -ing)
   
5. Present perfect progressive (has/have + been + -ing)
   
6. Present modal perfect (will/may/shall/must + have + -ed or -en)