



In January 2022, Declan Haughney ..... (go) to the post office in Carlow, Ireland, for his uncle, Peadar Doyle's, pension. He ..... (explain) that he ..... (live) with his uncle for some years and, that, unfortunately the old man ..... (not feel) well that day so he ..... (ask) him ..... (collect) the sum of 246 euros on his behalf.

The postmaster ..... (say) that only the pensioner himself ..... (can) collect the money so Declan Haughney ..... (leave) the post office and ..... (return) some time later with his friend, Gareth Coakley, and his uncle, who ..... (appear) very grey with a hat on his head and a pullover covering his face, standing unsteadily between the two men.

At this point, the postmaster ..... (want) to know if the pensioner ..... (be) unwell but the uncle ..... (not reply). Declan Haughney then ..... (declare) that the old man ..... (have) a heart attack and ..... (drop) his body on the floor of the post office. By now, everyone ..... (realize) that the man ..... (die), probably some time before, and the emergency services ..... (call).

While Peadar Doyle's lifeless corpse ..... (receive) the last rites from the local priest, the police ..... (arrest) Declan Haughney and Gareth Coakley and ..... (charge) them with fraud and deception.

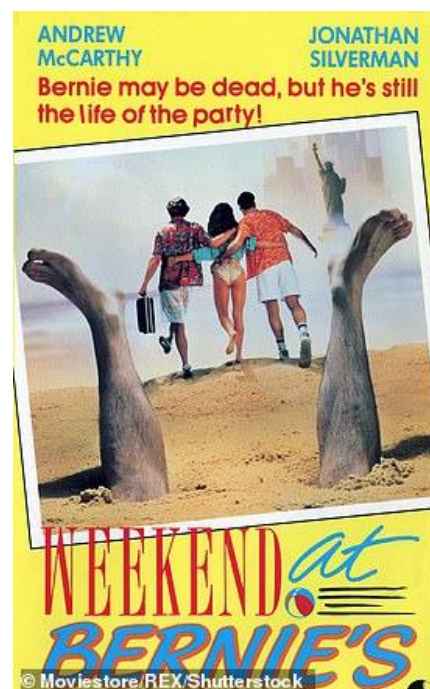
During the trial, Declan Haughey ..... (suggest) that his uncle ..... (might die) during the five-minute walk from his house to the post office. At this point, he and his friend ..... (link) arms with him and ..... (carry) him the rest of the way. He also ..... (accuse) the police of being unduly suspicious simply because, by an unfortunate coincidence, he ..... (serve) two years in prison for stealing from his aunt.

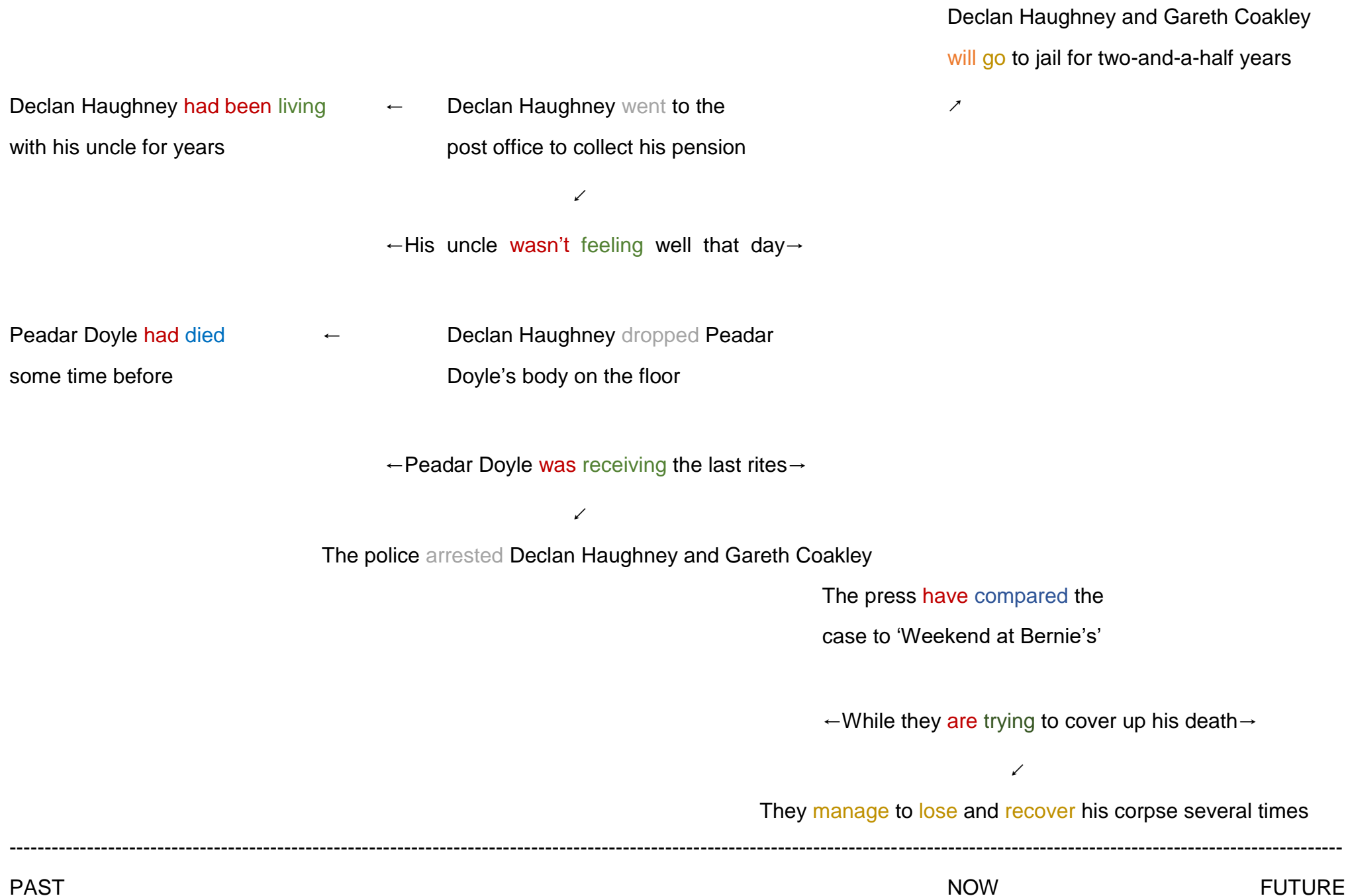
In July 2023, both defendants ..... (find) guilty and ..... (serve) two-and-a-half years in jail.

Since the trial, journalists ..... (compare) the case to the Hollywood film, 'Weekend at Bernie's', starring Andrew McCarthy and Jonathan Silverman, in which a pair of insurance salesmen ..... (carry) around the body of their murdered boss and ..... (pretend) he ..... (be) still alive.

While they ..... (try) to cover up his death, they manage ..... (lose) and ..... (recover) his corpse, which is clothed and wearing tinted glasses, several times.

Neither of the fictional culprits ..... (end) up in prison, though.







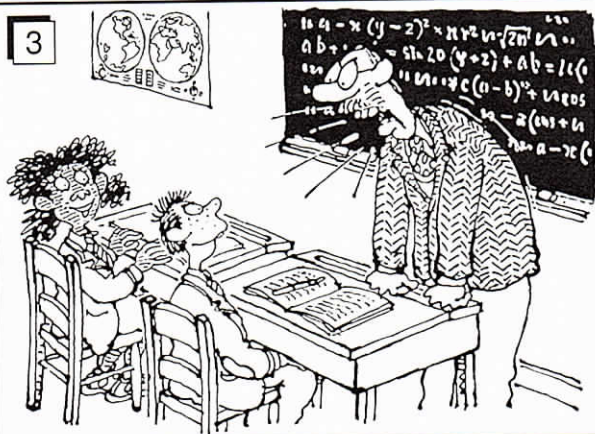
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## THE MAN WHO KIDNAPPED HIMSELF

1) Read the text below and put the words in brackets into the correct form

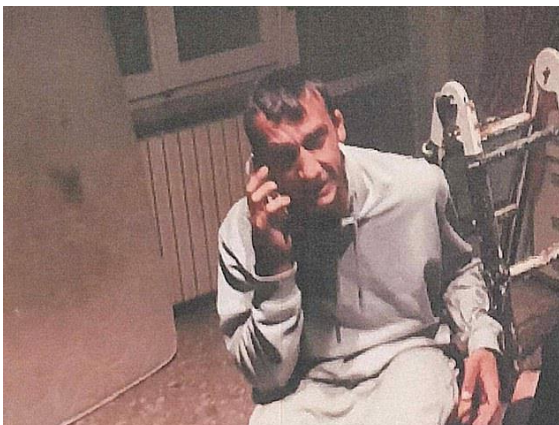


Sam Demilecamps, a twenty-five-year old Englishman with very rich parents, worked as a chef in Brighton. In June 2021, he (go)..... on holiday to Italy where he (travel)..... by bus to Naples, Sorrento, Bologna and the Adriatic coast. There, he (meet)..... Rubens Beliga Gnaga, 18, an Italian, Dona Conte, 22, from Guinea, Ahmed Rajraji, 21, from Morocco, and Aida Carpani, 20, from Montenegro. According to Demilecamps, they befriended him and then decided to kidnap him. In October 2021, he (abduct)..... from a park in Florence.

'My captors (see)..... me spending lots of money,' he said later. 'Later that night, they (kick)..... and (punch)..... me, used a Taser and pepper spray, then (throw)..... me into a car and (drug)..... me with tranquillisers.'

He (drive)..... more than 200 miles south to an apartment in Monte San Giusto, near Macerata. Here they chained him to a step-ladder, (give)..... him back his mobile phone and (tell)..... him to ask his friends and relatives to pay a ransom. He (send)..... the following text message to his father:

'I owe money to some very dangerous people. It's a matter of life and death — if I don't get 7,000 euros (£6,000), I (be)..... dead tomorrow.'



His father immediately alerted Italian law enforcement and the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA). The phone signal (trace)..... to the apartment in Monte San Giusto and, within 36 hours, the Carabinieri's Special Operations division (raid)..... the flat and (release)..... Sam Demilecamps. Four people (arrest).....

However, the Italian police (be)..... suspicious about the small amount of ransom demanded and the fact that the victim (know)..... his kidnappers. The suspects later explained that they (lend)..... him €7,000 and the (kidnap)..... was just a deception to convince his family to send them the money.

Demilecamps (agree)..... to stay in the flat while he (find)..... the cash to repay them but when he (try)..... to leave without paying his debts, they handcuffed him to the step-ladder. To corroborate their claims, a video filmed by Rajaji on his mobile phone shows Demilecamps and the rest of the group relaxing by a river together. He also appears to have cooked meals for them.



Whatever the truth, the four suspects are currently under house arrest. If they (find)..... (guilt)..... of extortion, they could (sentence)..... to up to 30 years in prison. The judge might downgrade or dismiss the charges, though, and if Sam Demilecamps (not tell).....the truth, he could (charge)..... with giving false information to the police.

## 2) MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST

Modal	Example	Concept
<b>Would have</b>	If I had known about his criminal record, I <b>wouldn't have employed</b> him.	But I didn't. 'Would have' describes an unreal action in the past, the past that did not happen
<b>Should have</b>	You <b>should have listened</b> to your lawyer.	But you didn't. It was the right thing to do but you didn't do it.
<b>Ought to have</b>	You <b>ought to have called</b> me sooner.	But you didn't. It was the right thing to do but you didn't do it.
<b>Must have</b>	He <b>must have been</b> drunk when he crashed the car.	90% probability
<b>Could have</b>	He <b>could have hidden</b> the money somewhere.	50% probability
<b>May have</b>	She <b>may have had</b> an accomplice although it is unlikely.	30% probability
<b>Might have</b>	They <b>might have kidnapped</b> the wrong person.	10% probability
<b>Can't have</b>	The witness <b>can't have seen</b> my client in the bank. He wasn't there.	0% probability

3) Now complete the following sentences about the Sam Demilecamps case, using modal verbs in the past tense.

- If the gang had really kidnapped him, they ..... let him use his own mobile phone to call his father.
- Professional criminals ..... known how easy it was to trace the signal.
- The gang ..... been very angry with Sam Demilecamps when they discovered that he couldn't pay his debts.
- Sam Demilecamps ..... been so frightened that he suggested that they kidnap him and demand a ransom.
- He ..... told them that his family was very rich to prevent them from hurting him.
- He ..... exaggerated just how rich they were.
- Demilecamps' father ..... known that something strange was going on because he called the police immediately.
- The Italian police ..... been suspicious about the size of the ransom.
- The gang ..... demanded 10,000 euros or 100,000 euros, not 7,000 euros, if they wanted to sound convincing.
- Demilecamps and his friends ..... been thinking very clearly when they devised such a stupid plan.



#### 4) WEBQUEST

*Now search the Internet to discover the latest developments in the Sam Demilecamps case.*

## The Murdaugh Murders



The Murdaugh family ..... (practise) law in South Carolina since 1910. Three generations of this powerful family .....(serve) as solicitors, there, for about 90 years, including Alex Murdaugh, a prominent and successful lawyer.

In 2018, the Murdaughs' housekeeper, Gloria Satterfield, ..... (die) after what ..... (purport) to be a trip-and-fall accident at the family's home in Hampton, South Carolina. Medical staff ..... (find) inconsistencies surrounding Satterfield's death but the discrepancies ..... (not report) to the coroner and no autopsy ..... (perform). In September 2021, Satterfield's sons ..... (file) a civil lawsuit against Alex Murdaugh and others, claiming they ..... never ..... (receive) an insurance payout concerning their mother's death. According to the complaint, Alex Murdaugh's insurance company ..... (agree) to a partial settlement of the claims associated with Gloria Satterfield's death of \$505,000 to her sons. However, the money ..... never ..... (pay).

In 2019, Alex Murdaugh's twenty-year-old son, Paul, ..... (charge) in connection with a 2019 boat crash that ..... (leave) a 19-year-old woman dead. After attending a gathering on Parris Island that February, Paul, who ..... allegedly ..... (drink), ..... (get) behind the wheel of a boat with five passengers which ..... (crash) into a bridge at about 2 a.m..

Mallory Beach, 19, ..... (be) a close friend of Paul's then-girlfriend, Morgan Daughy, who ..... (subject) to physical and psychological abuse during her relationship with him. Morgan ..... (claim) that Mallory ..... (try) to warn her about the violent behavior that Paul would exhibit while intoxicated. Shortly afterwards, Mallory ..... (fall) off the boat and her body ..... (find) a week later. Paul Murdaugh ..... (arrest) and ..... (indict) on charges of boating under the influence (BUI), causing death and significant bodily injury. Paul ..... (plead) not guilty. He ..... (release) on a \$50,000 bond.

By June 2021, Alex Murdaugh and his wife, Maggie, ..... (separate) and she ..... (stay) at the family's beach house on Edisto Island, approximately an hour from the family's estate. One night, Alex Murdaugh ..... (contact) her, asking her to meet him at the family's 1,770-acre estate. Alex ..... (tell) her that his 81-year-old father was in failing health and that the old man ..... (need) to see her one last time before the end. She ..... (consent) to meet Alex at the property, planning to follow him to the hospital in her own vehicle. On her way to the house, Maggie ..... (message) a friend, saying that something about her husband's behaviour felt "fishy".

"He's up to something," Maggie allegedly ..... (write) in her final text.

Not long after that, Maggie Murdaugh and her son, Paul ..... (kill). Police ..... (discover) their bodies at the family hunting lodge following a late-night 911 call. The two ..... (survive) by Maggie's husband, Alex Murdaugh and his son Richard, aka Buster.

On the night of the murders, Alex ..... (visit) his mother. According to him, his visit ..... (last) about an hour although his mother's carer said it ..... (be) more like 15-20 minutes.

In September 2021, Alex Murdaugh ..... (shoot) in the head while he ..... (change) a tyre, A helicopter ..... (fly) him to a hospital. Alex ..... (suffer) an entry and exit wound, a skull fracture, and minor brain bleeding in two places. The police ..... (classify) the incident as attempted murder.

Two days later, Alex — whose wounds ..... (be) superficial — released a statement saying he ..... (leave) his job at Peters Murdaugh Parker Eltzroth & Detrick and ..... (enter) an in-patient substance abuse rehabilitation facility.

"The murders of my wife and son have caused an incredibly difficult time in my life," he said in a statement. "I have made a lot of decisions that I truly regret. I'm resigning from my law firm and entering rehab after a long battle that ..... (exacerbate) by these murders."

The South Carolina Supreme Court subsequently ..... (suspend) his law licence after he ..... (accuse) of stealing \$1 million from his law firm.

Further investigations ..... (reveal) that Alex Murdaugh ..... (spend) \$50,000 a week on drugs at the time of the murders. In order to feed his opioid addiction, he ..... (embezzle) millions of dollars in funds from his clients, including the \$505,000 settlement intended for the Satterfield family.

In November 2021, Alex Murdaugh ..... (charge) with 27 counts of financial misconduct, including forgery, money laundering, computer crimes, breach of trust with fraudulent intent, and obtaining a signature or property by false pretences. Apparently, he ..... (steal) more than \$6.2 million from his alleged victims.

According to the prosecution lawyer "Alex Murdaugh clearly knew what he had done was wrong. He was in a massive depression and was in withdrawal from opioids. He wanted to make his



own suicide attempt look like a murder because he wanted his eldest son, Richard, to claim life insurance monies but believed that the \$10 million policy had a suicide exclusion clause. It was an attempt on his part to do something to protect his last remaining child."

Following a trial which ..... (last) until 2 March 2023, Alex Murdaugh ..... (find) guilty of murdering his wife and younger son and ..... (serve) a sentence of life in prison without parole.

DISCUSSION: The above text describes a series of crimes which still make little sense.

i) Speculate as to the possible means, motives and opportunities the killer(s) may have had when committing these crimes and how these tragic events could have been avoided.

Alex Murdaugh	Must have...	Paul Murdaugh	Must have...
	Could have		Could have
	May have		May have
	Might have		Might have
	Can't have		Can't have

Gloria Satterfield	Could have...	Mallory Beach	Could have...
	May have		May have
	Might have		Might have
	Can't have		Can't have

ii) Now talk about how the people below should have behaved and what they should have done:

Alex Murdaugh	Should / shouldn't have...	Paul Murdaugh	Should / shouldn't have
	Would / wouldn't have		Would / wouldn't have

Maggie Murdaugh	Should / shouldn't have...	The police	Should / shouldn't have
	Would / wouldn't have		Would / wouldn't have

Mallory Beach	Should / shouldn't have...	Morgan Daughy	Should / shouldn't have
	Would / wouldn't have		Would / wouldn't have

## MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST

### 1) POSSIBILITY / PROBABILITY IN THE PAST

He	must	have	known	90% Probability
	could		died	50% Probability
	may		guessed	30% Probability
	might		left	10% Probability
	can't		forgotten	1% Probability

### 2) OBLIGATION IN THE PAST

She	ought to	have	known	(but she didn't)
	should		phoned	

### 3) IMAGINARY SITUATIONS IN THE PAST

I	would	have	told you	(but I didn't)
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### 4) DEDUCTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE

The plane will have arrived by now



## LA MAPPA



L'EGO - HUB



WEBQUEST: use the Internet to find the answers to the following questions:

- i) Who is the victim?
- ii) What is the crime?
- iii) When and where did the crime take place?
- iv) Who is the prime suspect?
- v) What happened, according to the prime suspect?
- vi) Who are the witnesses?
- vii) What did the police investigation uncover?

DISCUSSION: now try to solve the case using the following phrases:

What	must have	happened to Andreea Rabciuc?
	could have	
	may have	
	might have	

The victim	must have / must be ...
	could have / could be ...
	may have / may be ...
	can't have / can't be ...

The prime suspect	must have / must be ...
	could have / could be ...
	may have / may be ...
	can't have / can't be ...

Someone else	must have / must be ...
	could have / could be ...
	may have / may be ...
	can't have / can't be ...

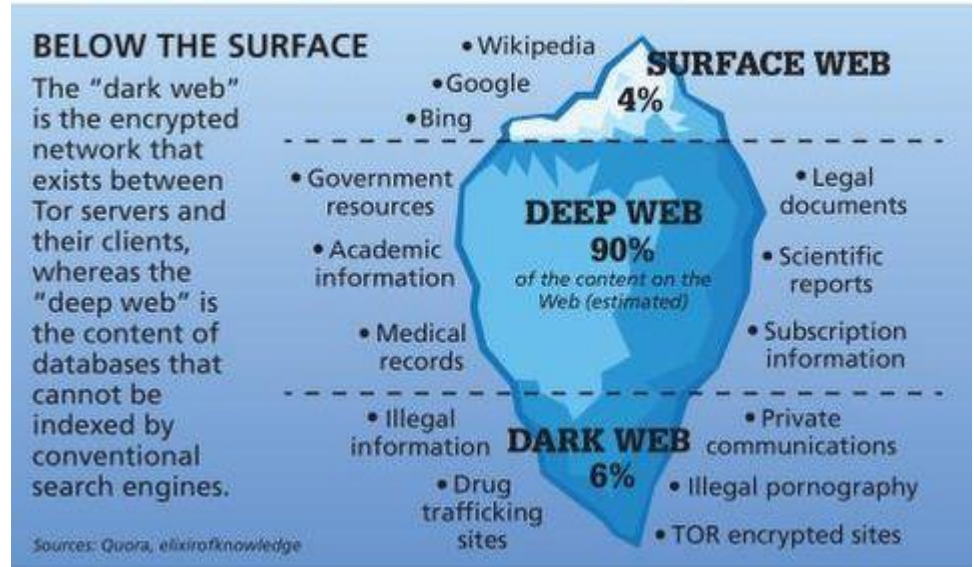
The police	should have / should ...
	ought to have / ought to ...

## 5) READING

### Cambridge Graduate Gets 32-Year Jail Sentence for Online Blackmail Campaign

Dr Matthew Falder, 29, who obtained a Master's degree and Ph.D from Cambridge University, has been jailed for 32 years for conducting a campaign of appalling web-based abuse against vulnerable victims. He admitted blackmailing scores of men, women and children, into carrying out humiliating and degrading acts, which left three so traumatized that they attempted suicide.

The brilliant geophysicist had been described by a university tutor as one of the finest students he had ever taught. But his descent into the depraved world of 'Hurtcore' - where dark web users take pleasure in witnessing the physical and mental torture of others - caused a judge to brand him an "internet highwayman". After tricking his targets into sending naked images of themselves, Falder then blackmailed them into committing increasingly embarrassing acts which included forcing one girl to eat dog food and making another drink her own urine and eat her own faeces.



Falder, who worked as an academic at Birmingham University, contacted more than 300 potential victims, but by operating on the dark web, he managed to evade capture for eight years. He was eventually apprehended following a concerted international investigation led by the National Crime Agency (NCA), the Department for Homeland Security in America and spies based at GCHQ. Judge Philip Parker QC said Falder had enjoyed every advantage in life, having been brought up by a loving family and benefiting from a world class education.

"Despite never having met any of your victims, you assumed total control over them. Your behaviour was cunning, persistent, manipulative and cruel. No-one who knew you socially had any idea about what you were doing online."

Birmingham Crown Court heard how Falder had initially tricked victims into providing nude images of themselves by posing as a female artist who wanted to use them to create life drawings. Once he had the photographs he used them to blackmail the victims into taking part in increasingly degrading activities. Falder also set up hidden cameras in public toilets, catching his unsuspecting victims on film. He then used the footage to blackmail his victims and trade with other Hurtcore offenders online. He was arrested at the University of Birmingham, where he worked as a geophysics researcher, and will not be eligible for parole until he is 50 years old. Will Kerr, NCA director of vulnerabilities, said police are increasingly concerned about 'Hurtcore' offenders.

"This investigation is a watershed moment for policing for two reasons: firstly, it highlights a previously unknown level of very horrific offending - there were over 300 contact reports from Matthew Falder alone; secondly, it highlights the unprecedented level of resources that law enforcement has to put into these investigations - at one point there were 100 investigators working on this case using the broadest range of new covert capabilities to try and identify and catch him and other offenders who were engaged in similar activities. Falder is not alone - there are many other users of these dark web sites and we are very concerned about it."

Now watch the National Crime Agency report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1ae-SYXewk>

6) Now write some sentences about the Matthew Falder case using must have / could have / may have / might have / can't have / should have / ought to have

7) WEBQUEST: Now use the Internet to discover what you can about the legal situation with regard to cyber-bullying in your country. What can parents do if they think their child is a victim of an online predator?