

6B

modals of deduction: *might, can't, must*

might / may (when you think something is possibly true)

Tony's phone is turned off. He **might** be on the plane now, or just boarding. (3 44))
 Laura **might not** like that skirt. It's not really her style.
 I don't know where Kate is. She **may** be at work or at the gym.
 I'm surprised that Ted isn't here. He **may not** know that the meeting is today.

can't (when you are sure something is impossible / not true)

Brandon **can't** earn much money at his job. He's still (3 45))
 living with his parents.
 That woman **can't** be Jack's wife. Jack's wife has dark hair.

must (when you are sure something is true)

The neighbors **must** be out. There aren't any (3 46))
 lights on in the house.
 Your sister **must** have a lot of money if she drives a Porsche.

- We often use *might / may, can't, or must* to say how sure or certain we are about something (based on the information we have).
- We don't use *can* instead of *might / may*, NOT *He can be on the plane now*.
- In this context the opposite of *must* is *can't*.
The neighbors must be out. There aren't any lights on in the house. | The neighbors can't be out. All the lights are on in the house. NOT *The neighbors must not be out.*



The neighbors must be out. There aren't any lights on in the house.

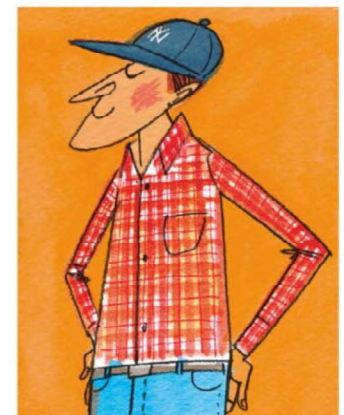


The neighbors can't be out. All the lights are on in the house.

- We can use *could* instead of *might* in affirmative sentences.
Jack could (or might) be at the party – I'm not sure.
- We often use *be + gerund* after *might / must / can't*.
They must be having a party – the music is very loud.

a Match the sentences.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| He might be American. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A He's carrying a sports bag. |
| 1 He can't be a college student. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B He's carrying a camera and a guide book. |
| 2 He must be cold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C He's looking at a map. |
| 3 He might be going to the gym. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D He's wearing a baseball cap. |
| 4 He could be lost. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E He's looking at job ads in the newspaper. |
| 5 He must be married. | <input type="checkbox"/> | F He isn't talking to anybody. |
| 6 He must be a tourist. | <input type="checkbox"/> | G He isn't wearing a suit. |
| 7 He can't be enjoying the party. | <input type="checkbox"/> | H He's wearing a wedding ring. |
| 8 He may not have a job. | <input type="checkbox"/> | I He's not old enough. |
| 9 He can't be a businessman. | <input type="checkbox"/> | J He isn't wearing a jacket. |



b Cover 1–9 and look at A–J. Remember 1–9.

c Complete with *must, might (not), or can't*.

- | | |
|---|---|
| A What does Pete's new girlfriend do? | 6 A Where's your colleague today? |
| B I'm not sure, but she <u>might</u> be a model.
She's very pretty. | B She _____ be sick. She called to say that she's going to the doctor's. |
| 1 A Do you know anyone who drives a Ferrari? | 7 A Jane is looking at you in a very strange way. |
| B Yes, my nephew. I don't know his salary, but he _____ earn a fortune! | B Yes. I've grown a beard since I saw her last, so she _____ recognize me. |
| 2 A Why don't you buy this dress for your mom? | 8 A My daughter has failed all her exams again. |
| B I'm not sure. She _____ like it. It's a little short for her. | B She _____ be working very hard if she gets such bad grades. |
| 3 A My sister works as an interpreter for the United Nations. | 9 A Why is Tina so happy? |
| B She _____ speak a lot of languages to work there. | B I'm not sure, but she _____ have a new partner. |
| 4 A Did you know that Andy's parents have split up? | 10 A Where's the manager's house? |
| B Poor Andy. He _____ feel very happy about that. | B I don't know, but he _____ live near the office because he commutes every day by train. |
| 5 A Are your neighbors away? All the windows are closed. | |
| B I'm not sure. I suppose they _____ be on vacation. | |