5 GRAMMAR modals of deduction

a Look at the photos of three people. Then in two minutes, match three sentences with each person.

- ☐ He / she might be a criminal.
- ☐ He / she might not know how to use the Internet.
- ☐ He / she could be a model.
- ☐ He / she could be German or Scandinavian.
- ☐ He / she may not have a job.
- ☐ He / she may be a millionaire.
- ☐ His / her hair must be dyed.
- ☐ He / she must be retired.
- ☐ He / she can't be a business person.

b Compare with a partner. *I think he could be a model.*

c ▶ **Communication** *Judging by appearances p.106.* Find out about the three people. Did you guess correctly?

d Look at the sentences in **a** and answer the questions.

1 Which modal verbs mean *it's possible?*
   might   _____   _____
2 Which modal verb means *it's very likely to happen?* _____
3 Which modal verb means *it's impossible?* _____

e ▶ **p.143 Grammar Bank 6B.** Learn more about modals of deduction and practice them.

6 LISTENING & READING

a In pairs, look at the man in the photo. Make sentences about him using *might | may | could (not) be,* *must be,* or *can't be* and words from the list.

American   British
very famous   homeless
funny   dangerous

b (3 47)) Listen to a woman talking about the man in **a** and answer the questions.

1 Where were the speaker and her friend, Ny?
2 What were they doing when they saw the man?
3 What did he look like?
4 What did Ny want to do?
5 What did the speaker do?

c (3 48)) Why do you think the speaker stopped Ny? Listen and find out. Who was the man?

d Look at the two photos of Susan Boyle in the article. Do you know who she is? Can you guess why she has changed her appearance?

e Read the article once and choose the best summary.

1 We now realize that it is wrong to judge people by their appearance.
2 Judging people by appearance can be useful and is often right.
3 If you try to judge people by their appearance, you will usually be wrong about them.

f Read the article again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Say why the **F** ones are false.

1 Most people predicted that Susan Boyle would be successful as a singer.
2 After her appearance on TV, people started saying that we shouldn't judge people by their appearance.
3 Scientists think that judging by appearance is an important skill.
4 It is more important to be able to make quick judgements about people than it used to be.
5 When we judge people by their appearance, we are usually wrong.
6 Susan Boyle has probably realized that people will never stop judging her by her appearance.

Yes, appearance matters.

When Susan Boyle first walked onto the stage of the *Britain's Got Talent* TV show, people immediately thought that she looked like a 47-year-old single woman who lived alone with her cat (which in fact she was). Nobody thought for a minute that she had a chance of doing well on the show, or could ever become a star. But when she opened her mouth and started singing *I Dreamed a Dream*, from the musical *Les Misérables*, everybody was amazed. After the video of her performance went viral, journalists started talking about how wrong it is to stereotype people into categories, and how we should learn, once and for all, "not to judge a book by its cover."

But social scientists say that there are reasons why we judge people based on how they look. On a very basic level, judging people by their appearance means putting them quickly into categories. In the past, being able to do this was vitally important, and humans developed the ability to judge other people in seconds. Susan Fiske, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Princeton University, said that traditionally, most stereotypes are linked to judging whether a person looks dangerous or not. "In prehistoric times, it was important to stay away from people who looked aggressive and dominant," she said.

One reason why our brains persist in using stereotypes, experts say, is that often they give us generally accurate information, even if all the details aren't right. Ms. Boyle's appearance, for example, accurately told us a lot about her, including her socioeconomic level and lack of worldly experience.

People's enthusiasm for Susan Boyle, and for other underdogs who end up winning, is unlikely to stop us from stereotyping people. This may be one of the reasons why, although Ms. Boyle expressed the hope that "maybe this could teach them a lesson, or set an example," she did begin to change her appearance, wearing makeup, dying her gray hair, and appearing in more stylish clothing.

Adapted from The New York Times

g Find a word or phrase in the article for the definitions.

Paragraph 1

1 _____ _____ was sent all over the Internet

2 _____ a _____ by _____ _____ judge a person by his / her appearance

Paragraph 2

3 _____ _____ absolutely essential

Paragraph 3

4 _____ _____ what social class she is and how much money she has

Paragraph 4

5 _____ people who are not expected to succeed

h Talk to a partner.

1 Do you think people in your country tend to judge other people by their appearance? In what way?

2 How important do you think appearance is for the following people?
   • politicians
   • TV hosts
   • business people
   • singers
   • doctors

   Do you think it is right that their appearance matters?

3 On what occasions might *you* judge someone by their appearance?