

deberia no podria puede que

Grammar: Modals of probability – **must, can't, may, might, could**

podria podria

6. Complete the chart.

Use must for something you're almost certain of.	Use can't for something you believe is impossible.	Use may, might, and could for something that you believe is possible.
You have to be 14 or older to go on that ride. It <u>must</u> be really terrifying.	Ralph doesn't speak French, so he <u>can't</u> be from France.	I don't know where your sister is, but she <u>may</u> be upstairs. I <u>might</u> not go to the barbecue because I haven't finished my homework. My dog doesn't want to eat. He <u>could</u> be sick.

Check your answers: Grammar reference, p. 110

7. Choose the correct answers.

- The roller coaster must / can't be fun. There are lots of people in line.
- You must / can't expect to win the lottery. Millions of people play it every week.
- You must / can't be really tired. You fell asleep twice during the movie.
- My neighbor must / can't make a lot of money. He's always taking expensive trips.
- She must / can't be a good student. She misses school at least once a week.
- I must / can't be late. I left an hour early!



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Use must for something you're almost certain of.
Use can't for something you believe is impossible.
Use might, may, and could for something that you believe is possible.

I/You/He/She/It/We/They

must be really terrifying.
must be terrified.
must not be relaxed.
can't be from France.
may/might/could be upstairs.
may/might not go to the barbecue.
may/might/could be sick.

2. Circle the correct answer. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

1. I ____ be in class tomorrow. I don't feel well.
a. could **b. might not** c. must **d. may not**
2. You ____ be exhausted. You only slept an hour last night.
a. can't b. must not **c. must** d. might not
3. Eva ____ be confused about our homework. She just explained it to me.
a. can't b. could c. may **d. might not**
4. We ____ go on the roller coaster. I don't think we're tall enough.
a. must **b. might not** **c. may not** d. could
5. They ____ be surprised. They knew we were planning a party.
a. could b. may **c. can't** d. might

8. Complete the sentences with *must*, *can't*, or *could*.

1. You haven't eaten all day? Let me make you a snack.
You must be hungry!
2. My mom must be at work or at the mall. She's not here.
3. We can't fail the test. The teacher said we could look at our books.
4. Your brother must get hurt if he's not careful.
5. That guy over there is speaking French. He could be the new student from Canada.
6. You drank three glasses of water 15 minutes ago. You can't be thirsty again.

Get it RIGHT!

Don't use *must* to discuss probability in the future.

If you don't go to bed now, you **will** be tired tomorrow. NOT: ~~If you don't go to bed now, you **must** be tired tomorrow.~~

Speaking: Surprising situations

9. **YOUR TURN** Read the situations below. Why do you think they're happening? Discuss with a partner. Be creative, and use *must*, *can't*, *might*, *may*, and *could*.

Situation 1: John bought a new bike last week, but he isn't using it. He's walking to school this morning.

Situation 2: Sean is a great athlete. He loves to play basketball, baseball, and football, but he isn't playing any sports at school this year.

Situation 3: Alicia has an important test in school tomorrow, but right now she's on a plane, going to Japan.

John's bike must be broken.

It can't be broken. It's new.

Well, it could have a flat tire. Maybe . . .