



Universidad
Politecnica
de Victoria

ENGLISH VI

UNIT 3 GRAMMAR: Modal
Verbs of Probability

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UNIT 3 GRAMMAR: Modal Verbs of Probability

GRAMMAR: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/english-grammar-reference/probability>

can and may/might/could

Grammar reference: 'can' and 'may'/'might'/'could'

Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb.

Feedback

Total score is 8 out of 8 (100%)

1. I don't know where Eliza is. She **may/might/could** be in her office.
2. Eliza's a good boss, but she **can** be difficult sometimes.
3. We can invite Filip to dinner tonight, but I think he **may/might/could** be too tired.
4. Don't feed that dog. You don't know where it's from. It **may/might/could** be dangerous.
5. You shouldn't walk home alone. This city **can** be dangerous at night.
6. Sometimes, the temperature in Antarctica **can** be less than -50°C.

Active and passive voice

'to'-infinitives

'-ing' forms

Talking about the present

Talking about the past

Talking about the future

Verbs in time clauses and 'if' clauses

Wishes and hypotheses

Clause structure and verb patterns

Delexical verbs: 'have', 'take', 'make', 'give', 'go' and 'do'

Online courses

Blackbox AI

could and could have

Grammar reference: 'could' and 'could have'

Choose the correct modal verb.

Feedback

Total score is 8 out of 8 (100%)

Punishments were very severe 200 years ago. You **could be** sentenced to death for stealing a loaf of bread.

☒ could be

☐ could have been

Show answers Show feedback Try again

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Grammar reference

Match the explanation

Feedback

Total score is 6 out of 6 (100%)

Eliza must be in her office.	I'm sure.	✓
She should be in her office.	... because she's normally there at this time.	✓
She may be in her office.	I'm not sure but it's possible.	✓
She might be in her office.	I'm not sure but it's possible.	✓
She could be in her office.	I'm not sure but it's possible.	✓
She can't be in her office.	I'm sure. It's impossible.	✓

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Probability 2

Feedback

Total score is 7 out of 7 (100%)

'Did you know that ...'	...	✓
'What did you think ...'	... think	✓
'I'll see you in the meeting at noon tomorrow.'	'OK. I've got another meeting at 11, so I may be a few minutes late.'	✓
'Mark's son started a new school last month. He doesn't like it at all.'	'Well, moving to a new school can be really difficult.'	✓
'I think I'll go to bed now.'	'Of course. You must be tired after your journey.'	✓
'Do you know where Dave's from? I don't recognise his accent.'	'I'm not sure, but I think he might be Portuguese.'	✓
'Do you think the supermarket's still open?'	'It should be. It doesn't usually close until eight o'clock.'	✓

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Probability 3

Feedback

Total score is 7 out of 7 (100%)

1. 'Did you know that...?'
'Really? That **can't** be true.'
2. 'What did you think about the new school?'
'At first, I didn't like it. But now I think she **could be** right.'
3. 'I'll see you in the meeting at noon tomorrow.'
'OK. I've got another meeting at eleven, so I **may be** a few minutes late.'
4. 'Mark's son started a new school last month. He doesn't like it at all.'
'Well, moving to a new school **can be** really difficult.'
5. 'I think I'll go to bed now.'
'Of course. You **must be** tired after your journey.'
6. 'Do you know where David's from? I don't recognise his accent.'
'I'm not sure, but I think he **might be** Portuguese.'
7. 'Do you think the supermarket's still open?'
'It **should be**. It doesn't usually close until eight o'clock.'

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Probability 4

Feedback

Total score is 7 out of 7 (100%)

'What time does the train arrive now.'	✓
'Can you see our train on the departures board?'	'No. I'm afraid it might have been cancelled.' ✓
'Where are Leslie and Theresa? They're nearly an hour late.'	'The traffic's pretty bad. They could have got stuck in a jam.' ✓
'Did Greg tell you - he was in the bank when it got robbed?'	'Yes, he did. He must have been terrified!' ✓
'I can't find the tortoise anywhere. Can you help me find it?'	'Well, it can't have gone far. Let's look in the garden.' ✓
'I can't find my wallet anywhere. I'm afraid it's been stolen.'	'Are you sure? You might have left it at home.' ✓
'Margot told me that she's been married for 30 years.'	'No, you couldn't have heard her correctly. Thirteen, maybe, but not 30 years.' ✓

Probability 5

Feedback



Total score is 6 out of 7 (86%)

1. 'What time does the train leave?'

'9.20. They **should** leave at 9.20.'

2. 'Can you see our train?'

'No. I'm afraid it **may have been** cancelled.'

3. 'Where are Leslie and Theresa? They're nearly an hour late.'

'The traffic's pretty bad. They **could have** stuck in a jam.'

4. 'Did Greg tell you – he was in the bank when it got robbed?'

'Yes, he did. He **must have been** terrified!'

5. 'I can't find the tortoise anywhere. Can you help me find it?'

'Well, it **can't have gone** far. Let's look in the garden.'

6. 'I can't find my wallet anywhere. I'm afraid it's been stolen.'

'Are you sure? You **might have left** it at home.'

7. 'Margot told me that she's been married for 30 years.'

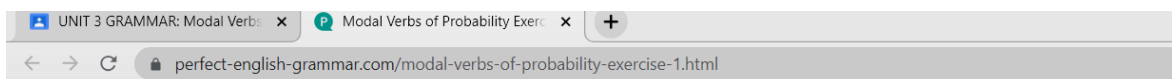
'No, you **couldn't have heard** her correctly. Thirteen, maybe, but not 30!'

Show answers

Show feedback

Try again

Probability QUIZ 1: <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-1.html>



Modals of Probability 1

Put in 'must + infinitive' or 'must + have + past participle':

1) Keiko always does really well on exams. She ✓ (study) a lot.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

2) That woman drives a very expensive car. She ✓ (have) a lot of money.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

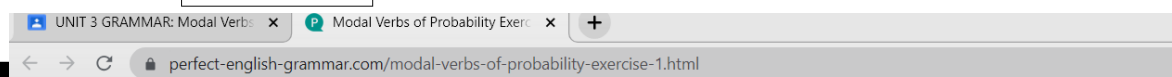
3) You ✓ (practise) a lot before you gave your speech. It was really good.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

4) When Lizzie got home yesterday there were flowers on the table. Her husband ✓ (buy) them.

CHECK



5) Where is my purse? I saw it earlier, so it ✓ (be) in this room.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

6) Sarah couldn't find her glasses. She thought she ✓ (leave) them at her office.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

7) It ✓ (be) cold outside. That man in the street is wearing a coat.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

8) All my plants ✓ (be) dead! I forgot to water them before I went on holiday.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

9) Susie is so late! She ✓ (miss) the train!

CHECK

9) Susie is so late! She ✓ (miss) the train!.

[.]

SHOW

10) There's rubbish all over my garden! A fox ✓ (be) in the bin.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

11) Anna has a huge library in her house. She ✓ (love) books.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

12) Oh no, I don't have my keys! I ✓ (leave) them in the taxi.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

13) When Lucy got home, she found the ice cream had melted. It

✓ (be) too hot in the car.

[.]

CHECK

.....

14) If you haven't eaten all day, you ✓ (be) hungry.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

15) Jimmy and Louisa ✓ (be) very tired. They have a new baby.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

16) It ✓ (rain) a lot in the night. There are puddles everywhere.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

17) David ✓ (be) happy. His girlfriend just agreed to marry

CHECK

18) What an amazing kitchen you've got! You ✓ (like) cooking.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

19) John ✓ (eat) all the biscuits! There are none left.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

20) When I got up this morning, the kitchen was spotless. Lily ✓ (tidy) it before she went to bed last night.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

[See all modal verbs exercises here](#)

QUIZ 2: <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-2.html>

UNIT 3 GRAMMAR: Modal Verbs x

Modal Verbs of Probability Exerc x



perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-2.html

1) Why is that man looking around like that? He be lost.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

2) That woman be a doctor! She looks far too young.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

3) John always fails the tests, even though he's clever. He study enough.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

4) The food is really good at that restaurant. They have a great chef.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

5) Who's that at the door? It be Susie - she'll still be at work now.

[.]

CHECK

SHOW

6) This be John's house. This house has a red door and it's number 24, just like he said.

[.]

CHECK

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CHECK

7) Julie ✓ have much money or she would buy a new car. Her old one is falling apart.
[.]

SHOW

CHECK

8) He ✓ be at work now, can he? It's nearly midnight.
[.]

SHOW

CHECK

9) What a lot of lovely flowers you have! You ✓ really like gardening.
[.]

SHOW

CHECK

10) David ✓ drink a lot of coffee. He's finished two packets already this week.
[.]

SHOW

CHECK

11) This ✓ be Jamie's coat. He's tall and this is tiny.
[.]

SHOW

CHECK

12) Her life ✓ be easy. She has four children and very little money.

13) Where's Lucy? She ✓ be at the library, as she often goes there at this time.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

14) This bill ✓ be right! £50 for two cups of coffee!.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

15) Emma's amazingly good at the piano. She ✓ practise a lot.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

16) The car in front is driving so slowly that I think they ✓ be looking for something.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

17) You've already eaten enough for three people! You ✓ still be hungry!.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

18) This book ✓ belong to the library. It's certainly not mine.
[.]

SHOW

19) It only takes three hours to fly from London to Sydney? That ✓ be correct!.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

20) There ✓ be something wrong with the fridge! It's making a very unusual noise.
[.]

CHECK

SHOW

