



ENGLISH

Chapter 8 Session A

4th
SECONDARY

MYSTERIES



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Modal verbs of deduction and speculation

1 Read the examples and circle the correct option to complete the rules.

Present	Past
It must be a joke.	It must have been a joke.
It might be the artist's work.	It might have been the artist's work.
The figures could be a protest.	The figures could have been a protest.
It can't be an advertising stunt.	It couldn't/can't have been an advertising stunt.

- 1 We use *must* when we think that something is **definitely/possibly** true.
- 2 We use *could* and *might* when we think something is **definitely/possibly** true.
- 3 We use *can't* when we think something is **definitely not/possibly not** true.
- 4 To talk about the **present/past** we use the modal verb + base form, and to talk about the **present/past** we use modal verb + *have* + past participle.

2 Look at the photo and read what people said about it. Complete the sentences with *must*, *could*, *might* or *can't*. Do you agree?

- 1 The photo could/ might be in Britain or it could /might be in another country. I'm not sure.
- 2 It must be in a town because there aren't any tunnels like this in villages.
- 3 She 's wearing a dress, so she can't be a runner. Definitely not.
- 4 She could/ might know the photographer, or he could/ might be a stranger.
- 5 She must want to go through the tunnel, or she wouldn't be there. I'm sure of that.
- 6 It can't be night time because I can see daylight at the end of the tunnel.

Modal Verbs of Deduction

100% Sure (Positive)

MUST

50% Sure

**MAY
MIGHT**

100% Sure (Negative)

CAN'T



couldn't

We can use both *couldn't* and *can't* to speculate and make deductions about the past.

He *can't/couldn't* have had bad news.

3 Look at the photo and complete the sentences.
Use a modal and past form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 He can't/ couldn't have had bad news.
- 2 He might/ could/ must have won something.
- 3 He might/ could/ must have got a new job.
- 4 He might/ could/ must have heard something wonderful.
- 5 He might/ could/ have asked his girlfriend to get married.
If so, she must have said "Yes"!



4 Complete the text with present or past modals and the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.



It ¹ **might /could be** (be) in a museum, or it ² **might/ could be** (be) in an art gallery. It isn't clear. He ³ **must like** (like) the sculpture because he is taking a photo of it. Also, there ⁴ **can't be** (be) any rules about taking photos there. The photographer ⁵ **can't/ couldn't have taken** (take) the photo recently because the camera looks really old. I suppose he ⁶ **could/ might be** (be) a history or art student. I'm not sure, but he ⁷ **might have done** (do) a project about this sculpture recently, and that's why he's there.



Modal verbs of deduction and speculation

1 Reinforcement Circle the correct option.

- 1 It's so hot today. It **must**/~~can't~~ be the hottest day of the year so far!
- 2 She's over an hour late. Her train ~~must be~~ **must have been** canceled.
- 3 What's this for? Do you think it **could**/~~must~~ be for grating cheese?
- 4 I love my present. You **must have**/~~must~~ spent hours looking for it.
- 5 Who's that at the door? It ~~can't~~ **could** be Adrian – he's in Canada right now.
- 6 If he'd tried harder, he **could**/~~can't~~ have won.



Complete the dialogue. Use *must*, *could/might* or *can't* in the present or the past with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

I've lost my phone. Have you seen it?

It ¹ might be (be) in the kitchen. You often leave it on the table.

No, I've looked there. It ² must be (be) somewhere in the house, though.

You ³ might have dropped (drop) it in the hallway when you were taking your coat off.



No, it ⁴ can't be (be) in the hallway. You ⁵ must have put (put) it somewhere when you were cleaning the kitchen.

I haven't put it anywhere. Did you check your pockets? It ⁶ might be (be) there.

Oh, I can hear it ringing. It's in the dishwasher! I must have left (leave) it in there when I was putting the dishes in.



3 **Challenge** Write a second sentence which has the same meaning as the first. Use *must*, *could/might* or *can't* for speculation and deduction in the present or the past.

- 1 This ring might have belonged to an ancient king.
- 2 It can't be made of silver.
- 3 It could be made of gold.
- 4 It must be very old.
- 5 The ring might have been buried with him.
- 6 It can't have been left here by accident.





- 4 Challenge** Answer the questions about the pictures. Use modals for speculation and deduction.



- 1 What is he doing? Why?

He could be looking for something.



- 2 Why is the student sad?

She must have forgotten her homework.

THANKS
FOR
YOUR
TIME



See you!

