



# ENGLISH

## Chapter 21 Session A

**4th**  
SECONDARY

**Modals of deduction –  
(Present and Past).**

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 **SACO OLIVEROS**



# Get talking!

**1** Discuss the pictures with a partner.

*What can you see? How does the man feel?*

*What do you think he's lost?*

**2** Do you often lose things? Have you ever lost anything important?

**1****90 Listen and read.**

**Bruno:** I can't find my keys. Have you seen them?

**Kayla:** No. Have you looked in your jacket?

**Bruno:** Yes, I have. They're not there.

**Kayla:** Well, they might be in the kitchen, on top of the fridge.  
That's where you sometimes put them.

**Bruno:** I know, but they're not there, either.

**Kayla:** They could be in the living room, I suppose ... near the TV.

**Bruno:** They can't be there. I haven't been into the living room  
since I came back home.

**Kayla:** Well, I don't know then! Did you leave them in the car?

**Bruno:** I can't have left them in the car. I locked the car when I got out.

**Kayla:** Hey, wait a minute. There they are! They're still in the front door!

**Bruno:** Oh, I must have left them there when I came in.

**Kayla:** Honestly! You'd forget your own head if it wasn't screwed on!

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# Language box



The keys **might be** in the kitchen.

They **could be** in the living room.

He **can't have left** them in the car.

He **must have left** them in the front door.



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Grammar reference » p.112

# Modals of deduction

We use the **modal verbs** *must*, *may*, *might*, *could*, and *can't* to make deductions.

To make deductions about the present, we use **modal + infinitive**:

She **must be** at home now.

They **might arrive** early.

To make deductions about the past, we use  
**modal + *have* + past participle**:

I **must have forgotten** to lock the door.

We **could have been** hurt in the car accident.

We use ***must*** to talk about things we think are true:

Sally has passed all her exams. She **must** be very pleased.



We use **can't** to talk about things we think are not true:

You **can't** be forty. You look so young.

We use **may**, **might** and **could** to talk about things we think are probably true:

Pom **may** call later.

It **might** rain this afternoon.

He **could** be upstairs.





**May, might** and **could** have very similar meanings. When we make deductions about the past, **couldn't** and **can't** have the same meaning:

I don't believe you. James **can't/couldn't have said** that.

## Complete the conversations using the verbs in parentheses and *must*, *can't* or *might* in the present or past.



- 1 A: I can't find Sam. Do you know where she is?  
B: No, but she loves swimming, so she \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach.
- 2 A: Noriko's English is much better this year than last year.  
B: Yes, I know. She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) lessons.
- 3 A: I think Sue and Janice are sisters, you know.  
B: They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) sisters. They don't look like each other at all!
- 4 A: I stayed up all last night to finish this report.  
B: Oh really? You \_\_\_\_\_ (be) exhausted!



5 A: I haven't seen Jane for a long time, you know.

B: I'm not sure, but I think she \_\_\_\_\_ (**go**) on vacation.

6 A: Is this your suitcase?

B: No, that \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) mine. My suitcase is black, not red.

7 A: Frank is off work today.

B: I know. I'm not sure, but I think he \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) sick.

8 A: Kevin's just bought a new car. It's a Jaguar, I think.

B: Wow! That \_\_\_\_\_ (**cost**) him a lot of money.

**2****Circle the correct answers.**

- 1 It's the middle of the winter. The ocean *might* / *must* be very cold.
- 2 Jenny is terrible at volleyball. She *can't* / *might* be on the school team.
- 3 That *could* / *can't* be the man I saw. He has the same hair.
- 4 She was in the hospital for a month, so she *must* / *might* have been very sick.
- 5 Nobody is here. I think everyone might go / *have gone* home.



## Challenge!

Take turns making deductions with a partner.

*Frank is asleep. He must be very tired.*



# Vocabulary

1

**Match each definition with a verb.**

1 see red

2 be blue in the face

3 be in the same boat

7 give someone a hand

8 ~~go back to square one~~

9 let the cat out of the bag

4 be on top of the world

5 cost an arm and a leg

6 eat like a horse

10 out of the blue

11 see eye to eye

12 be all ears



a start over 8

b become angry \_\_\_\_\_

c be in the same situation \_\_\_\_\_

d be very expensive \_\_\_\_\_



e completely by surprise \_\_\_\_\_

f tell someone a secret \_\_\_\_\_

g be very happy \_\_\_\_\_

h help someone \_\_\_\_\_





i be exhausted with effort \_\_\_\_\_

j listen carefully \_\_\_\_\_

k agree with someone \_\_\_\_\_

l eat a lot \_\_\_\_\_



**2** Test your partner. Say an idiom. Can your partner remember the meaning?

A: *"Go back to square one."*

B: *Does that mean "start over"?*



# Real life exchange



1

Before you listen, complete the conversation using the correct form of these verbs and a modal of deduction (*can, could, might, or must*). Work with a partner.

be   do   go   happen   stop



A: Do you know where Tom is?

B: I have no idea. He <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the library.

A: No, he <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ there. It's closed today.

B: Oh, I know! There's a ball game. He <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
to the game.

A: But that ended ages ago. He should be here by now.  
I don't know what <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to him.



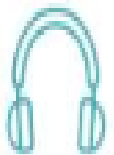
B: Don't worry. He <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch on the way back.

A: No, he <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that. He took sandwiches with him to the game.

B: Maybe he was still hungry. You know he eats like a horse!



2



92 Listen and check. Then practice the conversation with your partner.



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## Strategy: **Responding to what you hear**

**1**

**Complete the conversations with these phrases.**

a You might have hurt yourself

b You must be really happy

c You must have been exhausted

d That can't have been easy

e You can't be serious

f You could be killed





- 1 "I had to tell Kerry that her dog had died." "Oh no. \_\_\_\_\_."
- 2 "I lost over \$300 in a card game last night." "That's unbelievable! \_\_\_\_\_."
- 3 "After walking for six hours, we eventually got to the top of the mountain." "Wow! \_\_\_\_\_."
- 4 "Guess what! My wife's just had a baby." "That's great. \_\_\_\_\_."
- 5 "I'm going to go skydiving." "That's crazy! \_\_\_\_\_."
- 6 "I climbed that big tree in the park, you know." "That was dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_."

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**2**



**93** Listen and check. Then practice the conversations with a partner.



## Unit 11: Common proverbs

**1** Match the phrases to make common proverbs.



- 1 Better late
- 2 Live and
- 3 Absence makes
- 4 Look
- 5 Don't count your chickens
- 6 Actions speak louder
- 7 Blood is thicker
- 8 Beauty is only
- 9 Every cloud
- 10 The early bird
- 11 Better safe
- 12 The best things in life

- a than water.
- b has a silver lining.
- c than never.
- d let live.
- e are free.
- f catches the worm.
- g the heart grow fonder.
- h than sorry.
- i before you leap.
- j skin-deep.
- k than words.
- l before they hatch.



## Challenge!

Work with a partner.  
Do you know any more  
proverbs in English?



**2**

**What do you think each proverb means? Make a group and decide.**



### **3 Discuss these questions with a partner. Do you agree that ...**

- 1 it's important to always arrive on time?
- 2 different personalities and cultures make the world an interesting place?
- 3 you forget people you don't see regularly?
- 4 you should consider your options carefully before you make a decision?
- 5 what you say is more important than what you do?
- 6 friends can sometimes be more important than family?



- 7 your personality is more important than how you look?
- 8 it's impossible to see the positive side of bad things?
- 9 sometimes if you do things quickly, you regret them later?
- 10 it's better to take risks than live a safe and boring life?
- 11 having money helps you to enjoy life?