**Mini-Lesson: Modals of Deduction & Speculation (B2 Level)**

**1. Explanation (Simple Words)**

*"We use modals of deduction to make logical guesses about situations. These modals show how certain we are about something."*

**Key Modals & Their Meanings:**  
✔ **Must** → 95% sure (positive deduction)

* *"She must be tired."* (She looks exhausted—I’m almost certain.)

✔ **Might / May / Could** → 50% sure (possible but uncertain)

* *"He might be at home."* (Maybe, but I don’t know for sure.)

✔ **Can’t / Couldn’t** → 95% sure (negative deduction)

* *"That can’t be true!"* (I strongly believe it’s impossible.)

**Structures:**

* Present: **Modal + base verb** (*must be, might know*)
* Past: **Modal + have + past participle** (*must have left, could have forgotten*)

**2. Example Sentences (Everyday Situations)**

**Present Deduction:**

* *"Your phone isn’t ringing. It must be on silent."* (I’m almost certain.)
* *"They’re not answering. They might be sleeping."* (Maybe, but I’m not sure.)
* *"He can’t be at work—it’s Sunday!"* (I’m sure he isn’t.)

**Past Deduction:**

* *"She didn’t come to the party. She must have been sick."* (Very likely.)
* *"The keys could have fallen out of your pocket."* (It’s a possibility.)
* *"He couldn’t have stolen the money—he wasn’t even there!"* (Impossible.)

**3. Common Mistakes & How to Avoid Them**

🔹 **Mistake 1:** Using *must* for negative deductions.

* ❌ *"He mustn’t be home."* (This means prohibition, not deduction!)
* ✅ *"He can’t be home."* (Correct negative deduction.)
* **Tip:** *Mustn’t* = "don’t do this!" / *Can’t* = "I’m sure it’s not true."

🔹 **Mistake 2:** Confusing *might not* and *could not*.

* ❌ *"She could not be lying."* (This means she was unable to lie, not uncertainty!)
* ✅ *"She might not be lying."* (Maybe she’s telling the truth.)
* **Tip:** *Could not* (past inability) vs. *might not* (present possibility).

🔹 **Mistake 3:** Wrong past modal structure.

* ❌ *"He must has left."* → ✅ *"He must have left."*
* **Tip:** Always **modal + have + past participle** for past deductions.

**4. Practice Activities**

**A. Fill in the Blanks (Present or Past?)**

1. The lights are off. They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) asleep.
2. She didn’t answer my call. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) it.
3. This \_\_\_\_\_ (be) his wallet—it has his ID!

**B. Correct the Error**

1. *"He must has forgotten the meeting."* → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. *"They can’t have went home yet."* → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Speaking Practice (Detective Game – "What Happened?")**

* Show a mystery picture (e.g., a broken window).
* Students speculate:
  + *"The burglar must have broken in!"*
  + *"It might have been the wind."*

**Answers:**  
A: 1. *must be* (present), 2. *might not have seen* (past), 3. *must be* (present)  
B: 1. *must have forgotten*, 2. *can’t have gone*

This keeps the lesson engaging, practical, and focused on real-world usage! 😊