**Mini-Lesson: Modals of Deduction & Speculation (Must, Might, Can't, Could, May)**

**1. Introduction to Modals of Deduction**

* **Definition**: Used to make logical guesses about situations (certainty vs. possibility).
* **Example Situations**:
  + *Sarah isn’t answering her phone. She****must****be in a meeting.* (Strong certainty)
  + *The lights are off. They****might****be asleep.* (Weak possibility)

**2. Forming Deductions**

| **Modal** | **Certainty Level** | **Example** | **Time Reference** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **must** | 95% (positive) | *He****must****own a car. He drives to work.* | Present |
| **can't** | 95% (negative) | *That****can't****be John. He’s in Paris.* | Present |
| **could/might/may** | 50% (possible) | *She****might****be late—the traffic is bad.* | Present/Future |
| **must have** | Past certainty | *They****must have****forgotten the meeting.* | Past |
| **can't have** | Past impossibility | *She****can't have****stolen the money!* | Past |
| **could/might/may have** | Past possibility | *He****may have****missed the train.* | Past |

**Notes**:

* Use **must/can’t** for strong, logical conclusions (not personal opinions).
* Use **could/might/may** interchangeably for possibilities.

**3. Uses & Examples**

**Present/Future Deductions**

1. **Certainty (Must/Can’t)**:
   * *You’ve been studying all day. You****must****be exhausted.*
   * *That****can’t****be a dog—it’s too big!*
2. **Possibility (Might/Could/May)**:
   * *Take an umbrella. It****might****rain later.*

**Past Deductions**

1. **Certainty (Must Have/Can’t Have)**:
   * *She****must have****left early. Her bag is gone.*
   * *He****can’t have****won the race—he was injured!*
2. **Possibility (Could/Might/May Have)**:
   * *I****might have****left my keys at the office.*

**4. Common Mistakes**

* **Confusing "must" and "must have"**:
  + ❌ *She must be late yesterday.* → ✅ *She****must have been****late yesterday.*
* **Overusing "can’t" for weak negatives**:
  + ❌ *He can’t be at home.* (Unless you have proof!) → ✅ *He****might not****be at home.*

**5. Practice Exercises**

**Exercise 1: Choose the Correct Modal**

1. The door is locked. They \_\_\_\_\_\_ (must/can’t) be out.
2. A: Where’s my wallet? B: You \_\_\_\_\_\_ (might/must) have left it in the car.

**Exercise 2: Rewrite the Sentences**

1. *It’s impossible that he’s lying.* → **He \_\_\_\_\_\_ be lying.**
2. *Perhaps she took the wrong bus.* → **She \_\_\_\_\_\_ the wrong bus.**

**Exercise 3: Correct the Errors**

1. *This must has been a mistake.* → **This must have been a mistake.**
2. *She can’t be the winner. I’m not sure.* → **She might not be the winner.**

**6. Speaking Activity**

**"Detective Game"**

* Students guess scenarios using modals:
  + *Teacher*: *The CEO resigned suddenly.*
  + *Students*: *She****must have****gotten a better offer!* / *She****might have****been fired.*

**Key Notes**

* **No "to" after modals**: ❌ *She must to be sick.* → ✅ *She must be sick.*
* **Past deductions always use "have" + past participle**.

**Homework**: Write 5 deductions:

* 2 about the present (must/can’t),
* 3 about the past (might have/can’t have).

**Need a summary table?** Here’s a quick reference:

| **Modal** | **Use** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **must** | Strong positive guess | *You must be joking!* |
| **can’t** | Strong negative guess | *That can’t be true!* |
| **might/may/could** | Possible guess | *It could rain tomorrow.* |
| **must have** | Past positive logic | *She must have been thrilled.* |
| **can’t have** | Past negative logic | *He can’t have said that!* |

Let me know if you’d like a quiz or additional examples! 😊