\*\*Grammar Mini-Lesson: Modals of Deduction & Speculation\*\*

\*\*Level: B2 (Upper-Intermediate)\*\*

### \*\*Objective:\*\*

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to use modals to make logical guesses (deductions) and express uncertainty (speculation) about present and past situations.

---

### \*\*1. Present Deduction & Speculation\*\*

\*\*Use:\*\* To make guesses about present situations based on evidence or general certainty.

\*\*Modals:\*\*

- \*\*Must\*\* → Almost certain (strong evidence)

\*She \*\*must\*\* be tired. She’s been working all day.\*

- \*\*Might / May / Could\*\* → Possible (but not sure)

\*He \*\*might\*\* be at the gym. I’m not sure.\*

- \*\*Can’t / Couldn’t\*\* → Almost certain something is \*\*not\*\* true

\*That \*\*can’t\*\* be John—he’s in Paris this week!\*

\*\*Structure:\*\*

👉 \*Modal + base verb\* (for general truths)

👉 \*Modal + be + -ing\* (for actions happening now)

\*\*Examples:\*\*

- \*They \*\*must\*\* live nearby—they walk to work.\*

- \*She \*\*could be sleeping\*\*; her phone is switched off.\*

---

### \*\*2. Past Deduction & Speculation\*\*

\*\*Use:\*\* To make guesses about past situations.

\*\*Modals:\*\*

- \*\*Must have\*\* → Almost certain (logical conclusion)

\*She \*\*must have forgotten\*\* the meeting—she didn’t come.\*

- \*\*Might / May / Could + have\*\* → Possible in the past

\*He \*\*might have missed\*\* the train.\*

- \*\*Can’t / Couldn’t + have\*\* → Certain something \*\*didn’t\*\* happen

\*She \*\*can’t have stolen\*\* the money; she wasn’t even there!\*

\*\*Structure:\*\*

👉 \*Modal + have + past participle\*

\*\*Examples:\*\*

- \*The lights are off—they \*\*must have gone\*\* out.\*

- \*I \*\*could have left\*\* my keys at home.\*

---

### \*\*Practice Time!\*\*

\*\*A) Choose the correct modal:\*\*

1. She \_\_\_\_\_\_ (must / can’t) be sick—she was laughing earlier!

2. They \_\_\_\_\_\_ (might have / must have) taken the wrong bus. They’re lost.

\*\*B) Rewrite using a modal of deduction:\*\*

1. \*I’m sure he’s at home.\* → He \_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. \*Maybe she didn’t hear the alarm.\* → She \_\_\_\_\_\_.

---

### \*\*Answers:\*\*

\*\*A)\*\*

1. She \*\*can’t\*\* be sick—she was laughing earlier!

2. They \*\*must have\*\* taken the wrong bus. They’re lost.

\*\*B)\*\*

1. He \*\*must be at home\*\*.

2. She \*\*might not have heard\*\* the alarm.

---

### \*\*Key Tips:\*\*

🔹 \*\*Must\*\* = 99% sure (positive) | \*\*Can’t\*\* = 99% sure (negative)

🔹 \*\*Might/May/Could\*\* = 50% sure

🔹 For past actions, always use \*\*have + past participle\*\*

\*\*Challenge:\*\* Describe a mystery situation (e.g., \*"My coffee is gone!"\*) and speculate using modals. Example:

\*"My colleague \*\*must have taken\*\* it—she loves coffee!"\*

Let me know if you’d like more examples! 😊