modals of deduction

TODAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You go past his house in the evening...

It's 6 o'clock.
He can't be
home yet!

TODAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You go past his house in the evening...

TODAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You go past his house in the evening...

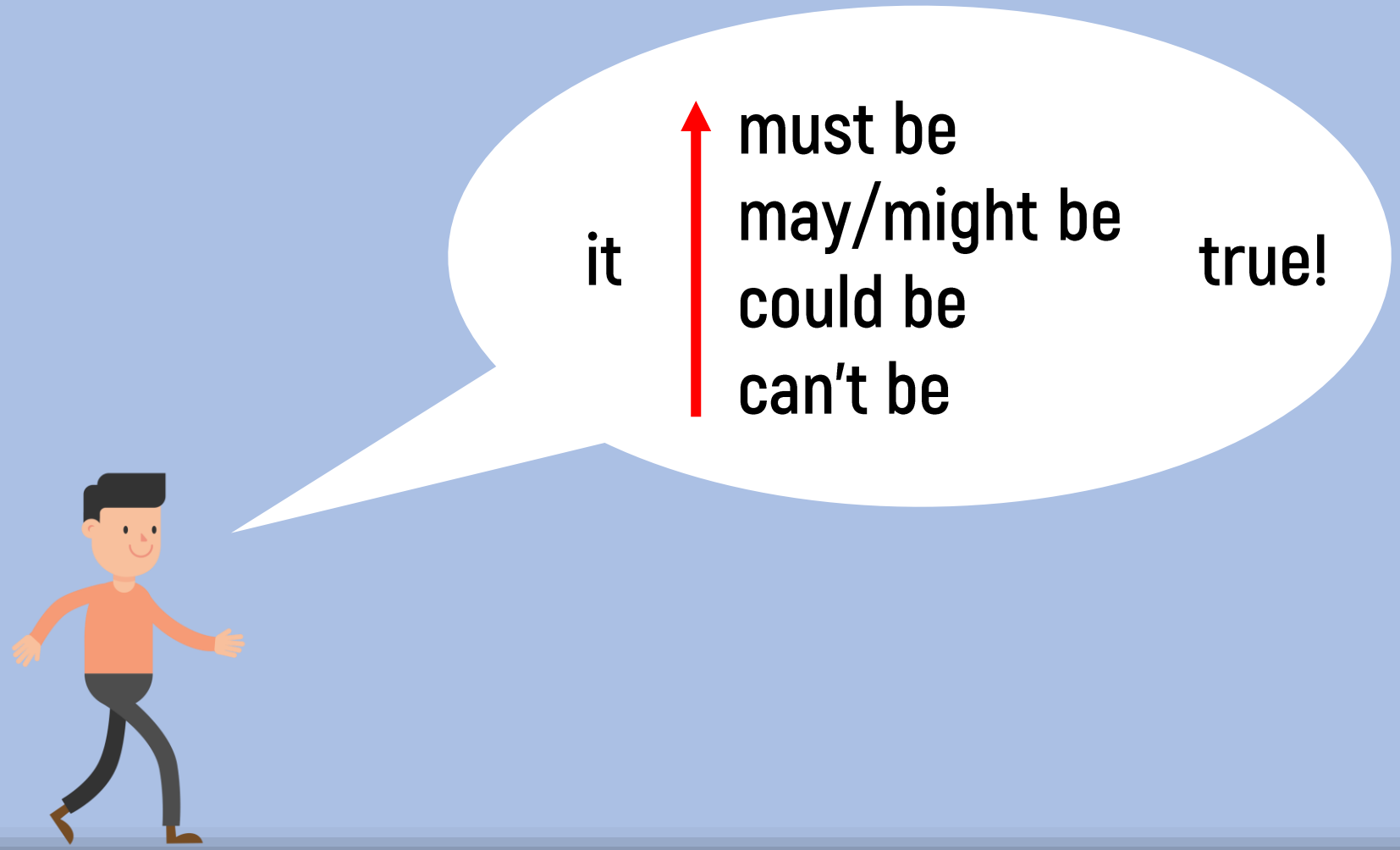
It's 7.30.
He might be
at home...

TODAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You go past his house in the evening...

It's already 9!
He must be
at home!

DEDUCTION ABOUT THE PRESENT:



YESTERDAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You went past his house last evening...

It was 6 o'clock. He can't have been at home then!

YESTERDAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You went past his house last evening...

YESTERDAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You went past his house last evening...

YESTERDAY

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You went past his house last evening...

It was 9 pm.
I was sure he
must have been
at home!

DEDUCTION ABOUT THE PAST:

it

must have been
may/might have been
could have been
can't have been

true!

TOMORROW

Your friend usually comes home at 7.
You're going to walk
past his house tomorrow evening...

When I come there, he should be at home!

present	past	future
must might/may + infinitive could can't	must might/may + have + V3/ed could can't	should + infinitive

He might be at home.

We could have met before.

The rain should stop soon.