MODAL VERBS - MEANINGS

Do the sentences in each pair have the same or different meaning?

A Could she be an engineer?
B Do you think she's an engineer?
Same Different

A Perhaps we will buy some new computers for the office.
B We may buy some new computers for the office.
Same Different

A We are visiting our main client next week.
B We might visit our main client next week.
Same Different

A She can't be his daughter.
B I'm sure she isn't his daughter.
Same Different

A They might not get the contract until the spring.
B They won't get the contract until the spring.
Same Different

A He must be upset.
B Perhaps he's upset.
Same Different

A She should be there on time.
B I think she'll be there on time.
Same Different

Choose the best meaning for each sentence, A or B.

1. Sally might have taken the children to the park.
   A I'm sure this happened. B I'm not sure this happened.
2. It must have been a wonderful party!
   A I went to the party. B I didn't go to the party.
3. Ellen can't have been there.
   A I'm sure about this. B I'm not sure about this.
4. Check your computer. They should have sent the email yesterday.
   A I think they sent an email. B I don't think they sent an email.
5. That's a pity. They might not have known about it.
   A They didn't know about it. B I don't know whether they knew about it or not.
6. The bus is late. You'd better take a taxi.
   A Taxis are better than buses. B I think you should take a taxi.
7. We'd better not swim here.
   A It's dangerous. B It's better than the other swimming pool.
8. You should have phoned your mother.
   A You phoned her this morning. B You didn't phone her this morning.
9. The government should reduce taxes.
   A I think taxes aren't high enough. B I think taxes are too high.
10. You ought to put on some sunscreen.
    A We went to the beach yesterday. B We're going to the beach.
11. I must look for a better job.
    A I think this is important for my future. B My boss told me to do this.

LIVEWORKSHEETS