Language focus
Modals of speculation and deduction

1 **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using an appropriate modal verb.**

   1 It's possible that the artist wants us to believe that the painting was created by someone else.

   The artist _may want us to believe the painting was created by someone else_ .

   2 I'm sure the gallery is open today.

   The gallery _____ .

   3 I've just seen four police cars drive past; I'm sure they're looking for the jewellery thieves.

   The police _____ .

   4 I've just heard that the Van Gogh sold for £14 billion! I'm sure that's not true – who would have that much money?

   The Van Gogh _____ .

   5 Newspaper reports say that experts now have doubts about whether the portrait of Shakespeare is genuine.

   The portrait of Shakespeare _____ .

2 **Complete the conversation with the appropriate form of a modal verb and the verb in brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

   A: Have you seen this picture of Alesha Frost?

   B: Wow! She looks amazing – how old is she now?

   A: She was born in the 1970s so she **(1)** _must be_ (be) about 40.

   B: How does she do it? I wish I could look like that.

   A: You know it's not real, don't you?

   B: What do you mean?

   A: Well, celebrities are never allowed to appear in the magazines in their natural state, so this photo **(2)** _____ (be) airbrushed.

   B: Really? But they **(3)** _____ (hide) her wrinkles or straightened her nose, could they?

   A: No, but she **(4)** _____ (have) plastic surgery for that – plenty of celebrities do.

   B: I suppose so. But how come she's so slim – she **(5)** _____ (be) on a diet.

   A: Maybe, or she **(6)** _____ (be born) with very good genes – her parents are both slim.

   B: Hmm. Some people have all the luck – good looks, money, a beautiful home.

   A: But on the other hand, it **(7)** _____ (be) easy living in the public spotlight all the time – imagine having to look good every day.

   B: Yes, it **(8)** _____ (be) exhausting.