

Modal verbs of possibility

Modal Verb	Degree of Possibility	Context	Clues/Indicators	Example Sentence
May	Moderate	Formal or Evidence-based	Some evidence or expectation	According to the forecast, it may rain tomorrow.
Might	Low	Informal or Tentative	Less certain, more tentative	It might rain tomorrow, but the sky is clear right now.
Could	General	Hypothetical or Conditional	Range of possibilities, conditions	If she finishes her work early, she could go to the party.

Complete the sentences using may, might, or could:

1. Based on the dark clouds in the sky, it _____ rain later.
2. The price of the house _____ drop further, so it might be a good idea to wait before buying.
3. The doctor's appointment is taking longer than expected. The patient _____ have had additional tests done.
4. If you save some money every month, you _____ afford a nice vacation next year.

5. The economic indicators suggest that there _____ be a recession next year.
6. If you're not feeling well, you _____ take a day off and rest.
7. She _____ join us for lunch, but she still needs to confirm.
8. The project deadline is tight, so we _____ finish it on time.
9. With the right training, he _____ become a skilled pianist.

Modal Verb	Usage	Example Sentence	Explanation
Must	Strong possibility or high probability	"She must be at work; her car is not in the driveway."	Indicates that the speaker believes something is very likely to be true based on available evidence.
Can't	Strong impossibility or high improbability	"He can't be the culprit; he was with me all night."	Indicates that the speaker believes something is very unlikely or impossible to be true based on evidence.

Fill in the Blanks with "must" or "can't"

1. She _____ be the new manager; she's too young.
2. He _____ be at home because I just saw him at the supermarket.

3. This cake _____ be delicious because it smells amazing.
4. You _____ be tired after working all night.
5. They _____ be in the office because all the lights are off.
6. She _____ have a lot of free time if she can read so many books.
7. This movie _____ be good; it won several awards.
8. He _____ be serious about quitting his job; he loves it too much.
9. It _____ be raining; the sky is perfectly clear.
10. They _____ have arrived by now; their flight landed an hour ago.
11. She _____ be the one who left the door open; she was the last to leave.