

6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might, can't, must*

a Circle the correct verb.

- A** Don't look now, but isn't that Karen Marshall over there?
B Where?
A At that table by the window.
B No, it ¹**must** / **can't** be. She went to live in Boston.
A But I'm sure it's Karen.
B Mmm, I suppose it ²**can** / **might** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.
A Well it ³**must** / **can't** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!
B You're right, it is Karen. But who do you think the man is? He ⁴**can't** / **might not** be her husband, can he?
A No, he ⁵**can't** / **might not** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.
B It ⁶**can** / **may** be her new boyfriend – or her son!
A Should we go over and find out?



b Complete the conversations with *must, might, might not, or can't*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 **A** That's the second phone that Stacey's bought this year.
B She must have a lot of money!
A She's a student, so she _____ be that rich.
B She _____ have generous parents then.
- 2 **A** Do you know where Charlie is?
B Well, he _____ be far away. His phone's on the desk.
A Any idea where he _____ be?
B He _____ be talking to the boss, or he _____ be in the photocopying room.
Do you want me to go and look for him?
- 3 **A** I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.
B So, it _____ be from anyone you know.
A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week.
They _____ be calling to offer me the job. I'm not surprised. I did a really good interview.
B Well, don't be too confident, because they _____ be calling to say you didn't get the job.
A There's only one way to find out!
- 4 **A** This steak _____ be for me. It looks medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.
B It _____ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



ACTIVATION

Practice the conversations with a partner.