

# Modals of deduction and speculation

a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so **he won't likely be here** before 7.00. ✗

*Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so he isn't likely to be here before 7.00.*

- 1 My glasses aren't in their usual place. **Someone must move them.**
- 2 A Do you know where Ann is?  
B **She should be in the library.** That's where she said she was going.
- 3 A What's that noise in the garage?  
B **I think it can be** the neighbour's cat.
- 4 I'm sure Chelsea will win tonight. **They're unlikely to lose** three times in a row.
- 5 I think you should delete that photo of Tina. **She won't definitely like it.**
- 6 **Julian is bound be late** – he always is.
- 7 No one's answering the phone at the shop. **I'd say they've probably gone home.**
- 8 I don't think Marta has gone to bed yet. **I think she must still study.**
- 9 **It's quite likely that the boss will retire** in a year or two.

b Rewrite the sentences using the **bold** word.

Perhaps Luke has got lost. He has no sense of direction. **might**

Luke *might have got lost*. He has no sense of direction.

- 1 I don't think he'll have time to call in and see us. He has a very tight schedule. **probably**  
He \_\_\_\_\_ . He has a very tight schedule.
- 2 I'm not sure she'll ever get over the break-up. **may**  
She \_\_\_\_\_ the break-up.
- 3 They will probably have heard the news by now. **ought**  
They \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- 4 I didn't leave my credit card in the restaurant. I remember putting it in my wallet. **can't**  
I \_\_\_\_\_ . I remember putting it in my wallet.
- 5 I'm sure your sister will like the scarf – it's just her style. **bound**  
Your sister \_\_\_\_\_ . It's just her style.
- 6 The company director probably won't resign, despite the disastrous sales figures. **unlikely**  
The company director \_\_\_\_\_ , despite the disastrous sales figures.
- 7 I'm sure he was in love with her, otherwise he wouldn't have married her. **must**  
He \_\_\_\_\_ , otherwise he wouldn't have married her.
- 8 Are you sure you locked the back door? **definitely**  
Did \_\_\_\_\_ lock the back door?
- 9 According to press reports, the couple will probably get divorced soon. **likely**  
According to press reports, it's \_\_\_\_\_ soon.