

Grammar

Modal of probability

Recognizing which modal

1 Match a line in A with a line in B.

A	B
1 ☐ They must be out.	a I feel hot and I've got a sore throat.
2 ☐ You can't be hungry.	b He'd be here by now, if he were.
3 ☐ He can't come from Sydney.	c But perhaps it's just a passing satellite.
4 ☐ You must know Alison.	d Their car isn't in the drive.
5 ☐ He can't be coming tonight.	e He doesn't have an Australian accent.
6 ☐ It could be a shooting star.	f She's been working in our office since July.
7 ☐ We may move to the country.	g They couldn't afford to.
8 ☐ I might have flu.	h Your jeans look too big.
9 ☐ You must have lost weight.	i We're tired of the city rat race.
10 ☐ They can't have bought a new car.	j We've just had breakfast.

Modals of probability – present

2 Harry is late for class. Suggest reasons why using **must**, **might**, **could**, or **may**.

Why do you think Harry's late?	
1 Is he still in bed? (might) <u>He might still be in bed.</u>	5 Is he stuck in a traffic jam? (may)
2 Is he ill? (must) 	6 Is his bus late? (might)
3 Is he in the coffee bar? (could) 	7 Is he talking to a friend from another class? (may)
4 Does he have a doctor's appointment? (might) 	8 Does he want to miss the test? (must)



3 Rewrite each sentence in exercise 2 with **can't**, and give the reason.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <u>He can't still be in bed, he never oversleeps.</u>
(never oversleep) | 5 _____ (not rush hour) |
| 2 _____ (fine yesterday) | 6 _____ (always on time) |
| 3 _____ (it / closed) | 7 _____ (everyone / in class now) |
| 4 _____ (not ill) | 8 _____ (been revising for weeks) |

10.1 Listen to the complete conversations and check exercises 2 and 3.

Ask Amanda!



KITTY'S PROBLEM:

Dear Amanda,

I have a really lovely boyfriend – he's hardworking, kind and good fun. But, I'm worried about my parents meeting him because ...

Best wishes, Kitty Fisher

Amanda replies:

Dear Kitty,

I understand why you feel worried. Your parents sound very nice, but they obviously have strong feelings about something like this. Have a word with them about what a nice guy he is, and how much he cares for you. Talk to Bill as well and explain that your parents are a bit old-fashioned and aren't up to date with modern trends. They won't know how common it is nowadays for people to have these on their bodies.

You're right, it's a good idea that they meet him, and perhaps he could help them with their garden.

If they get to know him and like him, they may forgive his colourful appearance.

Good luck,

Yours, Amanda!

LEO'S PROBLEM:

Dear Amanda,

We fight all the time. I hate him!

Yours,

Leo Blake

Amanda replies:

Dear Leo,

It is very difficult not to get angry with your brother in your situation. At your age you need time on your own and some privacy when you are with your friends. Ask your parents to find time in their busy lives to sit down and talk to you about what is happening. Tell them how Oliver is stopping you from doing your schoolwork. The youngest child in a family is often the favourite and gets very spoilt. Also, you should tell them about the problems Oliver is having at school. He won't leave you alone until he has more friends of his own.

Yours, Amanda!

- 4 *Ask Amanda!* is a problem page in a magazine. Read Amanda's reply to Kitty Fisher. What do you think her problem is?
- 5 Underline the correct modal verb.
 - 1 Bill must / might be Kitty's new boyfriend.
 - 2 Kitty's parents can't / may be quite old.
 - 3 She can't / must care about her parents' feelings.
 - 4 She must / might be their only child.
 - 5 Bill could / can't be a gardener.
 - 6 He must / can't be covered in tattoos.
 - 7 Kitty must / might be hoping to introduce him to her parents soon.
- 6 Read Amanda's reply to Leo Blake. What is his problem?
- 7 Complete the deductions about Leo with the correct words from the box.

must have (x2)	must be	can't have
might not know	may sometimes get annoyed	
could be jealous	might be studying	

- 1 Leo must be the eldest child in the family.
- 2 He a younger brother called Oliver.
- 3 Leo's friends with Oliver.
- 4 Leo's parents very demanding jobs.
- 5 Leo for some exams.
- 6 The parents that Oliver has problems at school.
- 7 Leo of Oliver.
- 8 Oliver many friends.

- ➡ Extra material p86 Read the complete letters to Amanda.

The continuous infinitive

8 Complete the conversations with a suitable verb in the continuous infinitive.

- 1 A Do you know where Kitty is?
B She's on her phone. She may be calling her mum and dad.
- 2 A Where's Leo?
B He's upstairs. He must his homework in his room.
A He's not in his room.
B Try the bathroom. He might a shower.
- 3 A I can't find the thing that changes the TV channel.
B The remote control? Stand up. You may on it.
- 4 A What's that noise?
B It sounds like an ambulance. It must someone to hospital.
- 5 A What's that noise outside?
B It sounds like workmen. They must up the road.
A What for?
B I don't know. They could a broken water pipe.

10.2 Listen and check.

9 Rewrite these sentences using the modal verbs in the past.

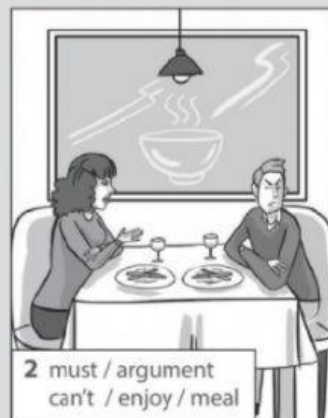
- 1 I'm sure you didn't work hard for your exams. You failed. (*can't*)
You **can't have worked hard**.
- 2 I'm sure they've arrived. I can hear a car. (*must*)
- 3 I'm not sure, but I think they went by train. (*may*)
- 4 Perhaps I left my phone in the coffee shop. (*might*)
- 5 I think he went to Oxford University. (*may*)
- 6 He has probably been on a diet. (*must*)
- 7 It's possible that they got married in secret. (*could*)
- 8 Perhaps he called while we were out. (*may*)

Modals of probability – past

10 Look at the pictures. What **must have** happened? What **might have** happened? Write sentences.



1 must / accident
might / skiing



2 must / argument
can't / enjoy / meal



3 must / catch / bird
bird / might / escape



4 must / miss / plane
plane / could / delayed



5 can't / enjoy / film
must / boring



6 must / lost phone
may / stolen

All modals of probability

11 Read the newspaper article. Answer the questions.

1 How did the cat travel to Paris?

No one knows!

2 How did it travel back to London?

3 Are Marna and Sean still together?

4 How did they know that it was their cat?

12 Rewrite these sentences in the article using the words in brackets.

1 Perhaps Moon Unit was stolen and taken to France. (*might*)

2 Maybe she was frightened by all the noise at the party. (*may*)

3 Perhaps she had been living at the railway station. (*could*)

4 Marna and Sean were undoubtedly very surprised when they heard from ADAD. (*must*)

5 I'm sure they didn't expect to see their cat again. (*can't*)

6 Their relationship ended so I don't think they have a lot in common. (*can't*)

7 It seems that they are still friends. (*must*)

8 They probably had a reason to call the cat 'Moon Unit'. (*must*)



Two Londoners, **Marna Gillingham** and **Sean Purdy**, have recently been reunited with their pet cat. Of course, it's not unusual for cats to go missing. However, this cat, called '**Moon Unit**', had been missing for eight years and was not found in a neighbouring street, but 200 miles away, across the Channel, in Paris.

Marna and her ex-partner, Sean, had adopted Moon Unit over ten years ago, when they were a couple, and she had vanished after a New Year's Eve party at their flat in Bermondsey, London. They searched for months and had numerous 'sightings' but it was never Moon Unit. Eventually, their relationship ended and they moved house.

Then suddenly, last month, Marna received an email from the UK microchipping database, Petlog, saying that their cat had been found by L'Association d'Aide et de Défense des Animaux en Détresse (ADAD) in Paris. Moon Unit had been spotted wandering around a French railway station. It seemed impossible, but the microchip proved that it was indeed the same cat. Moon Unit travelled back to England on the ferry from Calais, but no one knows how she crossed the sea in the first place, and ended up in the French capital.

Marna and Sean are no longer together as a couple, but they are fundraising to thank ADAD for reuniting them with their cat and Marna has agreed that Sean can keep Moon Unit.



Sean Purdy with Moon Unit