



Look at photos a-d and discuss the questions. -

1. Where do you think the buildings are? Are they in the city or the countryside? Which country? Why?
2. Who do you think lives in each building? A large family, a young couple? Why?

Listen to four people talking about these photos. Which photo is each person talking about?

Speaker 1 _____

Speaker 3 _____

Speaker 2 _____

Speaker 4 _____

Complete each sentence with one word.

1. It's very small, so it _____ belong to a big family.
2. There _____ be much space in here.
3. It _____ belong to a single person or a couple.
4. It _____ be on the outskirts of any big city.
5. It _____ not be a house.
6. Whoever lives there _____ have children.
7. Or it _____ be a holiday home.

Listen again and check your answers.

Match sentences 1-4 with meanings a-c. Two have the same meaning.

1. It must be a holiday home. _____	a) I think it's a holiday home (but I'm not sure).
2. It might be a holiday home. _____	b) I'm sure it's a holiday home.
3. It could be a holiday home. _____	c) I'm sure it's not a holiday home.
4. It can't be a holiday home. _____	

We can use modal verbs to show that we are making a deduction using evidence, not stating a fact:

► 2.39

We must be early. Nobody else has arrived yet.

They work at the same office so they may know each other.

She might not be in. The lights are all out.

That can't be Mark's car. He told me his was in the garage.

Different modal verbs tell us how sure about a deduction we are:

<i>It's cold in that house.</i>	Fact: <i>I know it is.</i>
<i>It must be cold in that house.</i>	Deduction: <i>I'm sure it is.</i>
<i>It may / might / could be cold in that house.</i>	Deduction: <i>It's possible that it is.</i>
<i>It may / might not be cold in that house.</i>	Deduction: <i>It's possible that it isn't.</i>
<i>It can't be cold in that house.</i>	Deduction: <i>I'm sure it isn't.</i>
<i>It isn't cold in that house.</i>	Fact: <i>I know it isn't.</i>

- The opposite of *must* for deductions is *can't*. Don't use *mustn't*, *can* or *couldn't* for deductions:

This bill can't be right. I only ordered a salad.

NOT *This bill couldn't / mustn't be right.*

There must be a mistake.

NOT *There can be a mistake.*

- There is no difference between *may*, *might* and *could*. All three mean that something is possible.

- To make deductions about actions happening now, use a modal + *be* + verb + *-ing*:

She isn't answering the phone. She might be listening to music.

Match deductions 1-8 with sentences a-h

1. That man must be a doctor.
2. That man might be a doctor.
3. That man might not be a doctor.
4. That man can't be a doctor.
5. They must be eating dinner now.
6. They could well be eating dinner now.
7. They may not be eating dinner now.
8. They can't be eating dinner now.

- a) He doesn't know anything about medicine.
- b) They finished their dinner an hour ago.
- c) He's wearing a white coat.
- d) I remember they booked a table at a restaurant for around now.
- e) Perhaps they've finished.
- f) Look - he's listening to that man's heart.
- g) They usually eat around this time.
- h) It's possible that he's a nurse.

Complete the sentences using an appropriate modal of deduction. Sometimes more than one modal is possible.

It's impossible that she's in the office - she flew to Beijing yesterday.

e. g. She can't be in the office - she flew to Beijing yesterday.

1. I'm sure you're right.

You _____ right.

2. It's possible that they want to sell their flat.

They _____ their flat.

3. I'm sure he isn't speaking Russian - it sounds more like Spanish to me.

He _____ - it sounds more like Spanish to me.

4. It's possible that you're the perfect person for the job.

You _____ for the job

5. There's a possibility that he doesn't know the answer.

He _____ the answer.

6. I'm sure you don't need that coat today - it's 30 degrees!

It's 30 degrees! You _____ today.

7. They're probably building a new shopping center.

They _____ shopping center.

USING MODALS OF DEDUCTION TO SOFTEN A MESSAGE.

You can also use MIGHT, COULD to soften your message, especially if it's some kind of criticism.

Compare these examples:

There is a mistake. – There might be a mistake.

You are wrong. – You could be wrong.