

Modals: possibility probability certainty

1 Read the sentences and decide if they describe *possibility*, *probability* or *certainty*.

- 1 Stella can't be ill in bed – I saw her at volleyball practice 10 minutes ago! _____
- 2 Jason might be at the park. Why don't you call him and find out? _____
- 3 The doctor gave her a prescription so she should be at the chemist's now. _____
- 4 Jack needs more exercise. He must be swimming at the pool. _____
- 5 Antonia left here an hour ago, so she ought to be at the hospital by now. _____
- 6 I don't know where Nick is, but he could be working out at the gym. _____
- 7 I didn't see Cara at school today – she may still be sick with the flu. _____

2 Choose the correct words. Sometimes there is more than one correct answer.

- 1 A: Is Isaac coming to work tomorrow?
B: He's not sure. He **may** / **might** / **must** stay at home if he isn't better.
- 2 A: My doctor didn't know how to treat my flu.
B: What? He's a doctor – he **could** / **should** / **ought to** know how to do that!
- 3 A: According to this article, too much red meat is very bad for your health.
B: I'm sure that **can't** / **might** / **must** be true.

- 4 A: Where are all the volunteers?
B: They **should** / **could** / **can't** be busy with the animals. Maybe they're feeding them.
- 5 A: I think Bella is going to the gym.
B: She **may** / **ought to** / **can't** be going to the gym because her gym bag is still here.
- 6 A: Dale is still waiting for Sam to arrive.
B: That's strange. Sam left hours ago so he **could** / **might** / **ought to** be there by now.

3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 The football player is on the ground. He's holding his leg.
He _____ injured.
- 2 The nurse isn't here. No-one knows where she is.
She _____ be having her lunch.

- 3 Dad took a lot of medicine. He is still not well.
Dad _____ be feeling better now, but he isn't.
- 4 Toby's sister is tall. Toby is talking with a girl.
That girl _____ Toby's sister because she's too short.