

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.

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| 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. | 4 A: Where are all the volunteers?
B: They should / could / can't be busy with the animals. Maybe they're feeding them. |
| 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! | 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. |
| 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. | 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.

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| 1 The football player is on the ground. He's holding his leg.
He _____ injured. | 3 Dad took a lot of medicine. He is still not well.
Dad _____ be feeling better now, but he isn't. |
| 2 The nurse isn't here. No-one knows where she is.
She _____ be having her lunch. | 4 Toby's sister is tall. Toby is talking with a girl.
That girl _____ Toby's sister because she's too short. |