Modal Verbs (Possibility - Certainty)

Diagnosing a problem

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may / might / could →are used to express a **possible** diagnosis. → POSSIBILITY

MAY (puede)

MIGHT / COULD (podría)

must →is used to express a **certain** diagnosis. → CERTAINTY

MUST (debe)

may/ might/ could /must + be → are used to talk about the **present.** → PRESENT POSSIBILITY - CERTAINTY

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(infinitive)

Present possibility	The alternator	***may/might/could*** (puede/podría)	***be*** (estar)	Failing.	= It is **possible** that it is failing. (Es **posible** que este fallando)
Present certainty	The alternator	***must*** (debe)	***be*** (estar)	failing.	= It is **certain** that it is failing. (**Seguro** está fallando)

may/might/could/must + present perfect → are used to talk about the **past** – PAST POSSIBILITY - CERTAINTY

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(have + (past participle = 3° column verb/ ed))

Past possibility	The alternator	***may/might/could*** (puede/podría)	***Have*** (haber)	failed	= It is **possible** that it has failed but we don't know. (Es **posible** que haya fallado)
Past certainty	The alternator	***Must*** (debe)	***Have*** (haber)	failed	= It is **certain** that it is has failed. (**Seguro** falló)

1. What do these adverbs and adjectives mean? Match

Possible (adj.)	probablemente
Possibly (adv.)	posible
Probably (adv.)	quizás/ tal vez
Definitely (adv.)	definitivamente/ sin duda
Perhaps (adv.)	posiblemente
Certain (adj.)	cierto/seguro

2. What do these words express? Write "Certainty" or "Possibility

probably	
certain	
possibly	
perhaps	
possible	
definitely	

3. What do these modal verbs express? Match

must be	**Present possibility**
must have been	**Present certainty**
may/might/could be	**Past possibility**
may/might/could have been	**Past certainty**

4. What do these modal verbs mean? Match

must (be)...	**debe** (estar/ser)...
must have (failed)	**podría** (estar/ser)...
may (be)...	**podría haber** (fallado)
might/could (be)...	**puede haber** (fallado)
may have (failed)	**debe haber** (fallado)
might/could have (failed)	**puede** (estar/ser)...

5. Construcciones Impersonales: "There be + modal verbs". What do these words mean? Match

there may be	debe haber
there might/could have been	puede haber habido
there may have been	podría haber habido
there must have been	podría haber
there must be	debe haber habido
there might/could be	puede haber