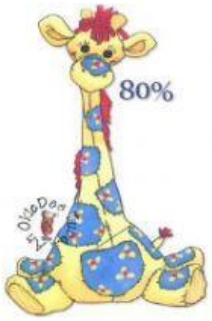
Intermediate level

Modal Verbs of Speculation

TYPE	USE	MODAL VERBS	EXAMPLE
1	to express possibilities for the future	MAY, MIGHT, COULD	It may rain tomorrow.
2	to express certainty	CAN'T, COULDN'T, MUST	She can't be Irish.
3	for possible explanations	MAY, MIGHT, COULD	She could be Scottish.



Check through the different uses.
Look at the following phrases and write in which type you think they are. Then use one of the modal verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

1 _____ They (may/must)_____ be away for the weekend but I'm not sure.

2 _____ He (can/could)_____ be French, judging by his accent.

3 _____ They (can't/may)_____ still be out!

4 _____ With luck, tomorrow (can't/could)_____ be a sunny day.

5 _____ You (can/might)_____ be right but I'm going to check anyway.

6 _____ The exam (can't/might)_____ be easy. You never know.

7 _____ It (may/can't)_____ be true about a sauropod dinosaur living in Lake Telé in the Congo. It's impossible.

8 _____ Dave reckons she's from The States but I think she (can't/might)_____ be from Scandinavia.

9 _____ I (can't/might)_____ go to the party but I'm not sure yet.

10 _____ This (must/could)_____ be the right answer but we'll have to check with your teacher to make sure.

11 _____ She (can't/could)_____ steal things from shops. She's rich and famous.

12 _____ I really think Real Madrid (can't/could)_____ lose the final of the King's Cup.

13 _____ She's been revising 10 hours a day for 3 weeks. She (could/must)_____ be exhausted.

14 _____ Nobody's answering. They (can't/must)_____ be out.

15 _____ He (can't/may)_____ be from the USA. He doesn't speak English.

LIVEWORKSHEETS