

## GRAMMAR Modals of probability



### 1 Complete the conversation with *might*, *must*, *can't* or *could*.

A: What's that? Oh, I know, it<sup>1</sup> ..... be a big cat.  
 B: Hmm, I don't think so. It<sup>2</sup> ..... be an elephant because it's too small.  
 A: Right, but it's an African animal. It<sup>3</sup> ..... be a rhino but it's the wrong colour.  
 B: I know! It<sup>4</sup> ..... be a giraffe – look at its skin!

### 2 Choose the correct answer.

- I .... watch a programme about animals tonight.  
 a) might      b) can't
- That .... be the longest snake I've ever seen!  
 a) can't      b) must
- Phil .... be ill because he isn't at school today.  
 a) might      b) can't
- It .... be a parrot. It's the wrong colour!  
 a) can't      b) must
- I know you've lost your book. .... this be it?  
 a) Can't      b) Could
- You .... be really excited – you have tickets for your favourite band!  
 a) must      b) could
- Taylor .... call me later but she's not sure.  
 a) must      b) might
- I'm tired. It .... be time for bed.  
 a) must      b) can't

### 3 Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- I think it ..... rain today – look at the sky.
- This ..... be for me – I don't like this kind of magazine.
- You ..... be happy with your wonderful exam results!
- That animal ..... bite you – watch out!
- My little sister is in a bad mood but she ..... be hungry.
- Everyone's wearing hats and coats. It ..... be very cold.
- I can't find my books but they ..... be at school.
- It ..... be Adele playing the piano. She plays better than that.

### 4 Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

A: What are you reading? And what is *that*?  
 B: It's an amazing animal. It<sup>1</sup> ..... be very clever, it's a type of ant.  
 A: Right! It<sup>2</sup> ..... be from Europe! Look at those trees and the background!  
 B: No, I think it<sup>3</sup> ..... be from South America somewhere. I haven't finished reading it yet!  
 A: Well, I<sup>4</sup> ..... do my 'wonderful animals' project about this! Can I have the magazine?

### 5 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- a) I think this can be difficult to do.  
 b) I think this might be difficult to do.
- a) They must be beautiful!  
 b) They might be beautiful!
- a) I thought that you might want to come to my house to play the game with me.  
 b) I thought that you want to come to my house to play the game with me.
- a) I'm imagining your new house and it might be wonderful.  
 b) I'm imagining your new house and it must be wonderful.
- a) I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city must be very nice.  
 b) I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city might be very nice.