

GRAMMAR Modals of probability



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

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

2 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 I ... watch a programme about animals tonight.
 a might b can't
- 2 That ... be the longest snake I've ever seen!
 a can't b must
- 3 Phil ... be ill because he isn't at school today.
 a might b can't
- 4 It ... be a parrot. It's the wrong colour!
 a can't b must
- 5 I know you've lost your book. ... this be it?
 a Can't b Could
- 6 You ... be really excited – you have tickets for your favourite band!
 a must b could
- 7 Taylor ... call me later but she's not sure.
 a must b might
- 8 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.

- 1 I think it rain today – look at the sky.
- 2 This be for me – I don't like this kind of magazine.
- 3 You be happy with your wonderful exam results!
- 4 That animal bite you – watch out!
- 5 My little sister is in a bad mood but she be hungry.
- 6 Everyone's wearing hats and coats. It be very cold.
- 7 I can't find my books but they be at school.
- 8 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 ¹ be very clever, it's a type of ant.
 A: Right! It ² be from Europe! Look at those trees and the background!
 B: No, I think it ³ be from South America somewhere. I haven't finished reading it yet!
 A: Well, I ⁴ do my 'wonderful animals' project about this! Can I have the magazine?

5 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a I think this can be difficult to do.
 b I think this might be difficult to do.
- 2 a They must be beautiful!
 b They might to be beautiful!
- 3 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.
- 4 a I'm imagining your new house and it might be wonderful.
 b I'm imagining your new house and it must be wonderful.
- 5 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.