

6.4 Grammar

Modal verbs: *must, could, may/might, can't* (speculation)



In the wild

Hi guys.

Welcome to my camping blog – the best place for all the latest camping news. This month I've discovered these amazing tree tents. It might be difficult to find them in the shops at the moment, but I think they're going to be popular. They're warm, comfortable and great fun. I slept in one last weekend in the middle of a forest and it was awesome! Have a look and let me know what you think.



They don't look very big. It can't be easy to stand up in them if you're tall.

6.30 p.m.



It might be fun to sleep up in the air, but it must be difficult to go to the loo in the middle of the night!

7.10 p.m.



They're cool! But they must be expensive because I haven't seen many of them.

8.00 p.m.



They may look cool, but I think they could be really uncomfortable because they move around with the wind.

8.30 p.m.

- 1 Look at the photo in the blog post. Is this a fun place to sleep? Why?/Why not?
- 2 6.10 Read the blog post and comments. What are the advantages and disadvantages of tree tents?
- 3 Study the Grammar box. Find more examples of modal verbs for speculation in the blog post and comments.

GRAMMAR

Modal verbs: *must, could, may/might, can't*

Speculation

It must be cold outside. People are in jackets.

It may/might/could be difficult to travel with the suitcase because it's very big.

That can't be our tent. It's the wrong colour.

GRAMMAR TIME > PAGE 132

- 4 Choose the correct option.

A: That's a strange tent. It looks like a balloon.
 B: Oh, that ¹must / can't be the new tree tent. I've seen them on the internet.
 A: I'd love to get one. Are they expensive?
 B: They ²can't / could be expensive because my uncle's got one and he hasn't got much money.
 A: Is there a campsite near here?
 B: I'm not sure. There ³might / must be one near the lake. I've seen people there in summer. Why?
 A: I'd love to try a tree tent. Can we ask your uncle if we can borrow it?
 B: OK but today ⁴could / can't be a bad time. He's going on holiday with it!

- 5 Complete the second sentence with a modal verb for speculation. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 I'm sure this is Ellie's tent. That's her rucksack. This must be Ellie's tent. That's her rucksack.
- 2 They're very quiet. Perhaps they're sleeping. They're very quiet. They may/might be sleeping.
- 3 I'm sure this isn't the same campsite. This can't be the same campsite.
- 4 Dad thinks this is your ticket, but your ticket is in your hand. This may/might be your ticket because your ticket is in your hand.
- 5 I'm sure the map is on the table. I put it there. The map must be on the table. I put it there.
- 6 Here's a guidebook but perhaps it's the wrong one. Here's a guidebook but it can't be the wrong one.

YOUR WORLD

- 6 What do you think of these ideas for unusual holiday accommodation? In pairs, share your ideas using modal verbs for speculation.

- a tree house in a forest
- a canal boat in Holland
- an ice hotel in Sweden
- a castle on an island

It could be noisy in a tree house in a forest because of all the animals.