6.4 Grammar

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

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.

1 ● Complete the sentences with *must* or *can't*.

1 That tent's tiny! It *can't* be big enough for eight people!
2 Look, that _____ be our hotel over there – I recognise it from the website.
3 The boat trips are very popular, so they _____ be good!
4 Everyone's swimming in the sea, so the water _____ be too cold.
5 The food in that restaurant looks amazing, so it _____ be expensive!
6 That _____ be our bus – our bus isn't due until 10.30, and it's only ten o'clock.

2 ● Choose the correct conclusion for each sentence.

1 Tom's gone home early.
(a) He might be ill.
b He can't be ill.
2 I'm not sure where my phone is.
a It must be in my bag.
b It may be in my bag.
3 Carrie's shoes are black, but these ones are brown.
a These could be Carrie's shoes.
b These can't be Carrie's shoes.
4 I don't know where the museum is.
a It might be near the station.
b It can't be near the station.
5 Everyone's wearing T-shirts.
a It must be hot.
b It can't be hot.
6 I don't know what the museum's like. The guidebook doesn't mention it.
a It might be interesting.
b It must be interesting.

3 ●● Choose the correct answer.

1 Look, that boy's standing up in the pool – it ___ be very deep.
a may (b) can't c must
2 I guess this ___ be Jack's umbrella, but I'm really not sure.
a must b can't c could
3 There are hundreds of people on the beach. It ___ be a very popular beach!
a must b might c can't
4 I'm not sure if the gym is open now – it ___ be closed.
a can't b may c must
5 Camping ___ be fun in the rain – I guess everything gets really wet!
a must b can't c could
6 I don't know where he's from. I guess he ___ be French. Or maybe Spanish.
a might b must c can't

4 ●●● Complete the dialogue. Choose the correct option.

A: Have you seen this website about an activity camp?
B: Yeah, it looks good. It [1]*might be* / *can't be* fun to go on a holiday like this next summer. What do you think?
A: I agree. Do you think it costs a lot?
B: No, it [2]*must be* / *can't be* expensive because it's for young people and they don't have much money.
A: That's true. What activities can you do?
B: Well, there's climbing. I don't know if I want to do that. I think it [3]*can't be* / *must be* scary being up so high.
A: Yes, you [4]*may be* / *can't be* right about that, but the other activities look really good fun.
B: Yeah, I love kayaking. Do you think Abbie [5]*must be* / *might be* interested in coming too? Should we ask her?
A: That's a good idea. I think it's definitely better to go with friends. It [6]*could be* / *can't be* lonely if you go on your own and you don't know anyone.

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