

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*.

- That tent's tiny! It **can't** be big enough for eight people!
- Look, that _____ be our hotel over there – I recognise it from the website.
- The boat trips are very popular, so they _____ be good!
- Everyone's swimming in the sea, so the water _____ be too cold.
- The food in that restaurant looks amazing, so it _____ be expensive!
- 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.

- Tom's gone home early.
 a He might be ill.
 b He can't be ill.
- I'm not sure where my phone is.
 a It must be in my bag.
 b It may be in my bag.
- 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.
- I don't know where the museum is.
 a It might be near the station.
 b It can't be near the station.
- Everyone's wearing T-shirts.
 a It must be hot.
 b It can't be hot.
- 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.

- Look, that boy's standing up in the pool – it _____ be very deep.
 a may b **can't** c must
- I guess this _____ be Jack's umbrella, but I'm really not sure.
 a must b can't c could
- There are hundreds of people on the beach. It _____ be a very popular beach!
 a must b might c can't
- I'm not sure if the gym is open now – it _____ be closed.
 a can't b may c must
- Camping _____ be fun in the rain – I guess everything gets really wet!
 a must b can't c could
- 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.