

6.4 Grammar

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

GRAMMAR

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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.