

## 6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might, can't, must*

a Circle the correct verb.

- A** Don't look now, but isn't that Karen Marshall over there?  
**B** Where?  
**A** At that table by the window.  
**B** No, it <sup>1</sup>**must** / **can't** be. She went to live in Boston.  
**A** But I'm sure it's Karen.  
**B** Mmm, I suppose it <sup>2</sup>**can** / **might** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.  
**A** Well it <sup>3</sup>**must** / **can't** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!  
**B** You're right, it is Karen. But who do you think the man is? He <sup>4</sup>**can't** / **might not** be her husband, can he?  
**A** No, he <sup>5</sup>**can't** / **might not** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.  
**B** It <sup>6</sup>**can** / **may** be her new boyfriend – or her son!  
**A** Should we go over and find out?



b Complete the conversations with *must, might, might not, or can't*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 **A** That's the second phone that Stacey's bought this year.  
**B** She must have a lot of money!  
**A** She's a student, so she \_\_\_\_\_ be that rich.  
**B** She \_\_\_\_\_ have generous parents then.
- 2 **A** Do you know where Charlie is?  
**B** Well, he \_\_\_\_\_ be far away. His phone's on the desk.  
**A** Any idea where he \_\_\_\_\_ be?  
**B** He \_\_\_\_\_ be talking to the boss, or he \_\_\_\_\_ be in the photocopying room.  
Do you want me to go and look for him?
- 3 **A** I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.  
**B** So, it \_\_\_\_\_ be from anyone you know.  
**A** Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week.  
They \_\_\_\_\_ be calling to offer me the job. I'm not surprised. I did a really good interview.  
**B** Well, don't be too confident, because they \_\_\_\_\_ be calling to say you didn't get the job.  
**A** There's only one way to find out!
- 4 **A** This steak \_\_\_\_\_ be for me. It looks medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.  
**B** It \_\_\_\_\_ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



### ACTIVATION

Practice the conversations with a partner.