



MUST BE ARGENTINA!



Have a look at the following comments section. What topics are they talking about? Do you agree or disagree with these users?



Enter your comment...



Brian selter

Top Comment

12h ago

There must be something about mate culture that brings people together. I think it could be a symbol of hospitality.

24 Reply



Seltos Majito

Top Comment

2h ago

Foreigners might not understand why dinner starts so late here. They could be shocked that we eat at 10 or 11 p.m.! Also, they must be surprised by how emotional we get about football or politics. It might seem chaotic, but it could also show how involved people are.

14 Reply



Maria Santola

Top Comment

12h ago

Some people say Argentines are arrogant — that can't be completely true. It might come from the way we express ourselves, which can sound confident or intense. There must be a reason for that stereotype, but it could also be exaggerated by media or jokes.

54 Reply

YOUR TURN!

Change the following sentences in order to use the modals of speculation provided in brackets.

It's likely that the government is increasing social benefits.

→ The government _____ social benefits. **(must)**

I doubt that enough NGOs are being supported.

→ NGOs _____ enough support. **(might not)**

Perhaps local charities are helping more than we think.

→ Local charities _____ more than we think. **(could)**

I'm almost sure corruption is blocking many solutions.

→ Corruption _____ many solutions. **(must)**

It's impossible that all young people are apathetic about politics.

→ Young people _____ apathetic about politics. **(can't)**

Maybe they are using social media to express their views.

→ They _____ social media to express their views. **(may)**

I'm sure they are organizing protests through WhatsApp.

→ They _____ protests through WhatsApp. **(must)**

It's possible they are inspired by global movements.

→ They _____ inspired by global movements. **(might be)**

When we use modals of speculation, the verb form that follows changes based on the time reference (present or past) and the level of certainty or possibility:

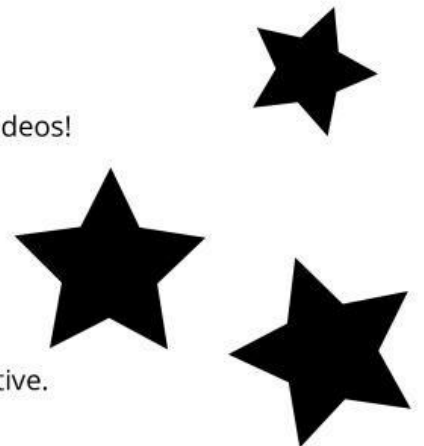
MODAL	USE FOR...	STRUCTURE	EXAMPLE
must	High certainty	must + be + verb-ing	<i>They must be organizing...</i>
can't	High certainty (negative)	can't + be + base/verb-ing	<i>They can't be apathetic...</i>
might / may	Possibility	might/may + be + verb-ing / past participle	<i>They might be inspired...</i>
could	Moderate possibility	could + be + verb-ing	<i>Charities could be helping...</i>
might not	Negative possibility	might not + be + verb-ing	<i>NGOs might not be receiving...</i>

NOTE:

- We use continuous forms (be + -ing) when the action is ongoing or current.
- We use past participles (might have helped, must have changed) when referring to the past, but this activity focuses on present speculation.

Read each sentence and correct the mistake related to modals of speculation or verb tense. Then compare with the answer key.

1. People must improved their habits after the crisis.
2. The economy might growing slowly, but unemployment remains high.
3. Celebrities can't have helped promote charity campaigns — there are videos!
4. The government must has created better access to education.
5. There might be supported by international organizations.
6. Protests can be decreased after the new laws were passed.
7. Some local traditions may forgotten as new trends arrive.
8. Poverty could reducing thanks to community programs.
9. The political system must changed a lot over the years.
10. People can't be more hopeful about the future — they seem really positive.



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