1 Complete the rules for modals of probability.

can't	could	~~might~~	must

1 things that are possible ....*might*.... .....
2 things we think are certain .....
3 things that are impossible .....

2 Circle the sentences that match.

1 It's definitely not an insect.
A It must be an insect. **B** It can't be an insect.
2 Perhaps it's a mole.
A It might be a mole. **B** It must be a mole.
3 It's definitely dangerous.
A It could be dangerous. **B** It must be dangerous.
4 Maybe it's harmless.
A It could be harmless. **B** It can't be harmless.
5 Perhaps they're bats.
A They must be bats. **B** They could be bats.

3 Circle the correct words.

Alfie: This animal is long.
Clara: It [1] *might / can't* be a snake.
Alfie: It lives under the ground.
Clara: I know! It [2] *must / could* be a worm!
Alfie: Yes, you're right.
Clara: OK, my turn. This animal has got wings.
Alfie: It [3] *can't / could* be a bird or an insect.
Clara: No, it's neither of those!
Alfie: Then I suppose it [4] *might / must* be a bat.
Clara: Well done!
Alfie: I'm thinking of an animal with fur.
Clara: It [5] *must / might* be a deer, a fox or a wolf.
Alfie: It isn't nocturnal.
Clara: OK, so it [6] *can't / must* be any of those animals. [7] *Perhaps / Definitely* it's a donkey?
Alfie: Yes, it is!
Clara: This animal has got six legs.
Alfie: Oh, it [8] *can't / could* be so many insects!
Clara: OK. Another clue. It's got colourful wings.
Alfie: Ah, that's easy! It [9] *must / might* be a butterfly.

4 Correct the mistake in bold in each sentence.

1 It's a very large fish with sharp teeth. It **can't** be a shark. ....*must*....
2 It's an insect with wings. **Must** it be a fly? .....
3 These animals are poisonous so they **might** be donkeys. .....
4 It's a really large bird. It **can't** be an eagle or a vulture. .....
5 People think they're insects, but they've got eight legs. They **could** be spiders. .....

5 Write the correct modals of probability.

The flying fox

Is it a fox? It's called a flying fox, but surely a fox [1] ....*can't*.... (can't / must) fly. Its face looks a bit like a fox's face, but it definitely [2] ..... (must / can't) be another type of animal. It's got wings, but it [3] ..... (can't / might) be a bird. In fact, it's a bat!

The urban fox

People think that there [4] ..... (can't / could) be over 10,000 foxes living in London. Foxes generally live under the ground, and in the city they surely [5] ..... (might / must) live under trees and bushes, and in the parkland.

6 Rewrite the sentences using the modals in brackets.

1 It's possible that it's a frog. (could)
.....*It could be a frog.*.....
2 I'm certain it isn't a dangerous animal. (can't)
.....
3 I'm sure worms are blind. (must)
.....
4 A cat is definitely not a wild animal. (can't)
.....
5 Perhaps they're nocturnal animals. (might)
.....
6 I'm not sure if it's an insect that stings. (could)
.....

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LIVEWORKSHEETS