Unit 6 Modal verbs test

SPECULATION NOW AND IN THE PAST | EUROPEAN NEWS | MODAL MISTAKES

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Instructions: Read each task carefully. Use a suitable modal verb and the correct verb form. Write complete sentences where asked.

1. Speculation in the present and past

Complete each sentence with a suitable modal verb and the correct form of the verb in brackets. Use must, can't, may, might or could.

1. The lights are on and I can hear voices upstairs. Someone _____ (be) at home.

2. I'm not certain, but Ella _____ (wait) for her brother at the station.

3. That _____ (be) Mr Jones in the photo; he is teaching a class in Tartu now.

4. They are looking at a map and checking street names. They _____ (look) for the museum.

5. It is 2 a.m., the shop is dark and the door is locked. The shop _____ (be) open.

6. His coat is soaked and his umbrella is inside out. He _____ (walk) in the storm.

7. The parcel arrived today and the delivery photo shows it by our front door. The driver _____ (leave) it there.

8. We are not sure why Mari missed the train. She _____ (forget) to set her alarm.

9. The house was locked all afternoon and the windows were closed. The dog _____ (escape).

10. The children's boots are muddy and there are wet footprints across the kitchen. They _____ (walk) through the garden.

11. The café was closed when we arrived, so the group _____ (buy) lunch there.

12. I can see the wet road and a broken umbrella by the door. It _____ (rain) heavily earlier.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Speculation on real-life news in Europe

Read each news opening. For each story, write two sentences: one present speculation and one past speculation. Use a different modal in each sentence. The news source and place are shown, but the reported ending is not.

A. Emil the wandering moose

A young moose nicknamed Emil had wandered through parts of Central Europe for weeks. After appearing near railway tracks, he was seen close to a motorway during rush hour, and wildlife officers were tracking him.

Place and source: Sattledt, Upper Austria | Euronews (Associated Press), 23 September 2025

Present speculation: What might Emil be doing now?

_____

_____

Past speculation: What could the wildlife officers have done to keep people and the animal safe?

_____

_____

B. A dog at Neuschwanstein Castle

On a hot day at Neuschwanstein Castle, visitors noticed a dog shut inside a small locker for valuables. The castle's security staff were alerted and went to check the locker.

Place and source: Neuschwanstein Castle, Bavaria, Germany | Reuters, reprinted by The Star, 7 July 2025

Present speculation: How might the dog be feeling?

_____

_____

Past speculation: What may the security staff have done next?

_____

_____

C. Two wild animals kept as pets

A lion and a bear were discovered being kept as pets on a private estate in northern Albania. A wildlife-rescue team and veterinarians prepared travel crates for a long journey across Europe.

Place and source: Northern Albania; later Germany | Associated Press, 18 December 2025

Present speculation: Where might the animals be now?

_____

_____

Past speculation: What must the veterinarians have done before the journey?

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Find and correct the modal mistake

Each sentence has one modal-verb mistake. Rewrite the whole sentence correctly.

1. You mustn't bring a pencil; the school provides one for every student.

_____

_____

2. We don't have to wear helmets on this climbing wall; it is compulsory.

_____

_____

3. My sister can to stay out until ten at weekends.

_____

_____

4. May I to open the window? It is very warm in here.

_____

_____

5. Leo musts be waiting for us outside the library.

_____

_____

6. They might have took the wrong train at the station.

_____

_____

7. Sam can't have be at work; I saw him in the park a minute ago.

_____

_____

8. She must have forgot her key because she is waiting outside.

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS