



Look at photos a-d and discuss the questions. -

1. Where do you think the buildings are? Are they in the city or the countryside? Which country? Why?
2. Who do you think lives in each building? A large family, a young couple? Why?

Listen to four people talking about these photos. Which photo is each person talking about?

Speaker 1 _____ Speaker 3 _____

Speaker 2 _____ Speaker 4 _____

Complete each sentence with one word.

1. It's very small, so it _____ belong to a big family.
2. There _____ be much space in here.
3. It _____ belong to a single person or a couple.
4. It _____ be on the outskirts of any big city.
5. It _____ not be a house.
6. Whoever lives there _____ have children.
7. Or it _____ be a holiday home.

Listen again and check your answers.

Match sentences 1-4 with meanings a-c. Two have the same meaning.

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| 1. It must be a holiday home. _____ | a) I think it's a holiday home (but I'm not sure). |
| 2. It might be a holiday home. _____ | b) I'm sure it's a holiday home. |
| 3. It could be a holiday home. _____ | c) I'm sure it's not a holiday home. |
| 4. It can't be a holiday home. _____ | |

We can use modal verbs to show that we are making a deduction using evidence, not stating a fact:



We **must be** early. Nobody else has arrived yet.
They work at the same office so they **may know** each other.
She **might not be** in. The lights are all out.
That **can't be** Mark's car. He told me his was in the garage.

Different modal verbs tell us how sure about a deduction we are:

It's cold in that house.	Fact: I know it is.
It must be cold in that house.	Deduction: I'm sure it is.
It may / might / could be cold in that house.	Deduction: It's possible that it is.
It may / might not be cold in that house.	Deduction: It's possible that it isn't.
It can't be cold in that house.	Deduction: I'm sure it isn't.
It isn't cold in that house.	Fact: I know it isn't.

- The opposite of *must* for deductions is *can't*. Don't use *mustn't*, *can* or *couldn't* for deductions:
*This bill **can't** be right. I only ordered a salad.*
NOT ~~*This bill couldn't / mustn't be right.*~~
*There **must** be a mistake.*
NOT ~~*There can be a mistake.*~~
- There is no difference between *may*, *might* and *could*. All three mean that something is possible.
- To make deductions about actions happening now, use a modal + *be* + verb + *-ing*:
*She **isn't answering** the phone. She **might be listening** to music.*

Match deductions 1-8 with sentences a-h

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| 1. That man must be a doctor. | a) He doesn't know anything about medicine. |
| 2. That man might be a doctor. | b) They finished their dinner an hour ago. |
| 3. That man might not be a doctor. | c) He's wearing a white coat. |
| 4. That man can't be a doctor. | d) I remember they booked a table at a restaurant for around now. |
| 5. They must be eating dinner now. | e) Perhaps they've finished. |
| 6. They could well be eating dinner now, | f) Look - he's listening to that man's heart. |
| 7. They may not be eating dinner now. | g) They usually eat around this time. |
| 8. They can't be eating dinner now. | h) It's possible that he's a nurse. |

Complete the sentences using an appropriate modal of deduction. Sometimes more than one modal is possible.

It's impossible that she's in the office - she flew to Beijing yesterday.

e. g. She **can't be** in the office - she flew to Beijing yesterday. _____

1. I'm sure you're right.

You _____ right.

2. It's possible that they want to sell their flat.

They _____ their flat.

3. I'm sure he isn't speaking Russian - it sounds more like Spanish to me.

He _____ - it Sounds more like Spanish to me.

4. It's possible that you're the perfect person for the job.

You _____ for the job

5. There's a possibility that he doesn't know the answer.

He _____ the answer.

6. I'm sure you don't need that coat today - it's 30 degrees!

It's 30 degrees! You _____ today.

7. They're probably building a new shopping center.

They _____ shopping center.

USING MODALS OF DEDUCTION TO SOFTEN A MESSAGE.

You can also use **MIGHT**, **COULD** to soften your message, especially if it's some kind of criticism.

Compare these examples:

There is a mistake. – There might be a mistake.

You are wrong. – You could be wrong.