

MODAL VERBS - MEANINGS

Do the sentences in each pair have the same or different meaning?

A Could she be an engineer?
B Do you think she's an engineer? Same Different

A Perhaps we will buy some new computers for the office.
B We may buy some new computers for the office. Same Different

A We are visiting our main client next week.
B We might visit our main client next week. Same Different

A She can't be his daughter.
B I'm sure she isn't his daughter. Same Different

A They might not get the contract until the spring.
B They won't get the contract until the spring. Same Different

A He must be upset.
B Perhaps he's upset. Same Different

A She should be there on time.
B I think she'll be there on time. Same Different

Choose the best meaning for each sentence, A or B.

- Sally might have taken the children to the park.
 A I'm sure this happened. B I'm not sure this happened.
- It must have been a wonderful party!
 A I went to the party. B I didn't go to the party.
- Ellen can't have been there.
 A I'm sure about this. B I'm not sure about this.
- Check your computer. They should have sent the email yesterday.
 A I think they sent an email. B I don't think they sent an email.
- That's a pity. They might not have known about it.
 A They didn't know about it. B I don't know whether they knew about it or not.
- The bus is late. You'd better take a taxi.
 A Taxis are better than buses. B I think you should take a taxi.
- We'd better not swim here.
 A It's dangerous. B It's better than the other swimming pool.
- You should have phoned your mother.
 A You phoned her this morning. B You didn't phone her this morning.
- The government should reduce taxes.
 A I think taxes aren't high enough. B I think taxes are too high.
- You ought to put on some sunscreen.
 A We went to the beach yesterday. B We're going to the beach.
- I must look for a better job.
 A I think this is important for my future. B My boss told me to do this.