

6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might / may, can't, must*

a Circle the correct verb.

- A Don't look now but isn't that Jane Marshall over there?
 B Where?
 A At that table by the window.
 B No, it **'must' / 'can't'** be. She went to live in Chicago.
 A But I'm sure it's Jane.
 B Mmm, I suppose it **'can't' / 'might'** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.
 A Well it **'must' / 'can't'** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!
 B You're right, it is Jane. But who do you think the man is? He **'can't' / 'might not'** be her husband, can he?
 A No, he **'can't' / 'might not'** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.
 B He **'can' / 'may'** be her new boyfriend – or her son!
 A Should we go over and find out?



b Complete the dialogues with *must, might, might not, or can't*.

- 1 A That's the second laptop that Jack's bought this year.
 B He must have a lot of money then!
 A He's a student so he _____ be that rich.
 B He _____ have generous parents then.
- 2 A Do you know where Charlie is?
 B Well, he _____ be far away. His phone's on the table.
 A Any idea where he _____ be?
 B He _____ be talking to the boss or he _____ be in the photocopying room. Do you want me to look for him?
- 3 A I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.
 B So, it _____ be from anyone you know.
 A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week. They _____ be calling to offer me the job. I'm not surprised: I had a really good interview.
 B Well, don't be too confident because they _____ be calling to say you didn't get the job.
 A There's only one way to find out!
- 4 A This steak _____ be for me. It looks like it's medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.
 B It _____ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.

