

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 ¹ be. She went to live in Chicago.
 A But I'm sure it's Jane.
 B Mmm, I suppose it ² be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.
 A Well it ³ 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 ⁴ be her husband, can he?
 A No, he ⁵ be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.
 B He ⁶ 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 can't be that rich.
 B He might have generous parents then.

2 A Do you know where Charlie is?
 B Well, he can't be far away. His phone's on the table.
 A Any idea where he might be?
 B He might be talking to the boss or he might not 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 can't be from anyone you know.
 A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week. They might 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 might not be calling to say you didn't get the job.
 A There's only one way to find out!

4 A This steak can't be for me. It looks like it's medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.
 B It might be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



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c Cover the dialogues in **b**. Look at the pictures and try to remember the dialogues.