

# MODAL VERBS OF DEDUCTION

test-english.com

## MUST

90-100% (sure it's TRUE)

- She **must be** in the garden. (=I'm sure she is in the garden)
- They **must know** each other.

## CAN'T

90-100% (sure NOT true)

- She **can't be** his mother. She's too young. (=I'm sure she is NOT his mother)
- He's just left. He **can't be** too far.

## MAY/MIGHT (NOT)

30-50% (maybe it's TRUE)

- He **may/might be** dead.
- 30-50% (maybe NOT true)
- He **may/might not remember** who you are. (=Maybe he does NOT remember)



Use **can't** (NOT **mustn't**)

- He's just left. He **mustn't be** too far.
- He's just left. He **can't be** too far.

Use **may/might** (NOT **can**)

- He isn't here. He **can be** at home.
- He isn't here. He **might be** at home

+ be + -ing verb

to speculate about actions in progress

- They are in Iniza. They **must be having** a great time.
- You're always hungry. I think that you **might not be eating** enough protein.
- New study suggests that air pollution **may be making** people unhappy.

# THIRD CONDITIONAL

Structure **IF + Past Perfect, Perfect Conditional**  
(Would/wouldn't + have + Past Participle)

Usage **Imaginary situations in the past**

- Examples
- If I **had got** a gold medal, I **would have been** happy.
  - If I **had met** Susan last week, I **would have given** her the book.
  - If the weather **had been** good, we **would have gone** water-skiing.
  - If you **had got** (gotten-US) up earlier, you **would have caught** the earlier train.



## Grammar

- Choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.
  - That can't/could be the right train. It's not 8.30 yet.
  - Those boots must/may be expensive! They're Jimmy Choo.
  - It might/can't be hot on the beach, so take some suntan lotion.
  - You must/could like detective fiction. You've got a lot of crime books.
  - That can't/mustn't be the right phone number. I keep getting some strange woman's voice!
  - Don't buy a book for Tara's birthday. She can/might already have it. Get her some flowers instead.
- Complete the sentences using **must**, **can't** or **might** and the correct past modal form of the verbs given.
  - Stuart \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to play tennis. He had his racket with him, but maybe he's going after school.
  - The people who stole the painting \_\_\_\_\_ (be) professional art thieves because everything was very carefully arranged.
  - Paul \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) this cake! He doesn't know anything about baking!
  - Jamie \_\_\_\_\_ (go shopping) because he said he needed some new trainers, but I'm not sure.
  - Ralph \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) the computer already. He's only been here for five minutes.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) the turning. This is the wrong road.
- Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use **[must/would/can't]**
  - I was very tired last night, so I didn't go to the party.  
**HAVE**  
If I hadn't been so tired last night, I \_\_\_\_\_ the party.
  - I'm sure that's Bill's new girlfriend because she's holding his hand!  
**BE**  
That \_\_\_\_\_ girlfriend because she's holding his hand!
  - I don't believe that you've finished the work already!  
**YOU**  
\_\_\_\_\_ work already!
  - I'm sure your work at the college is very interesting.  
**BE**  
Your work at the college \_\_\_\_\_ interesting.
- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs given.
  - If I'd read my essay more carefully, I \_\_\_\_\_ (correct) the mistakes.
  - If it \_\_\_\_\_ (not rain), Nadal would have won the match easily.
  - I \_\_\_\_\_ (be able to) buy the new iPad if I hadn't spent all my money on clothes last month.
  - If you \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me you needed money, I would have lent you some.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ (not miss) the train if his alarm clock had been working.
  - The government would have been more popular if they \_\_\_\_\_ (lower) taxes when they had the opportunity.