

GRAMMAR Modals of probability



1 Complete the conversation with *might, must, can't* or *could*.

A: What's that? Oh, I know, it ¹..... be a big cat.

B: Hmm, I don't think so. It ²..... be an elephant because it's too small.

A: Right, but it's an African animal. It ³..... be a rhino but it's the wrong colour.

B: I know! It ⁴..... be a giraffe – look at its skin!

2 Choose the correct answer.

1 I ... watch a programme about animals tonight.
a might b can't

2 That ... be the longest snake I've ever seen!
a can't b must

3 Phil ... be ill because he isn't at school today.
a might b can't

4 It ... be a parrot. It's the wrong colour!
a can't b must

5 I know you've lost your book. ... this be it?
a Can't b Could

6 You ... be really excited – you have tickets for your favourite band!
a must b could

7 Taylor ... call me later but she's not sure.
a must b might

8 I'm tired. It ... be time for bed.
a must b can't

3 Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- I think it rain today – look at the sky.
- This be for me – I don't like this kind of magazine.
- You be happy with your wonderful exam results!
- That animal bite you – watch out!
- My little sister is in a bad mood but she be hungry.
- Everyone's wearing hats and coats. It be very cold.
- I can't find my books but they be at school.
- It be Adele playing the piano. She plays better than that.

4 Complete the sentences with the correct modal verb. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

A: What are you reading? And what is *that*?

B: It's an amazing animal. It ¹..... be very clever, it's a type of ant.

A: Right! It ²..... be from Europe! Look at those trees and the background!

B: No, I think it ³..... be from South America somewhere. I haven't finished reading it yet!

A: Well, I ⁴..... do my 'wonderful animals' project about this! Can I have the magazine?

5 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a I think this can be difficult to do.

b I think this might be difficult to do.

2 a They must be beautiful!

b They might to be beautiful!

3 a I thought that you might want to come to my house to play the game with me.

b I thought that you want to come to my house to play the game with me.

4 a I'm imagining your new house and it might be wonderful.

b I'm imagining your new house and it must be wonderful.

5 a I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city must be very nice.

b I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city might be very nice.