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: Mm, 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.

1 I think it _____ rain today – look at the sky.
2 This _____ be for me – I don't like nature magazines.
3 You _____ be really happy with your new pet dog!
4 That animal _____ bite you – watch out!
5 It looks like a dog, but it lives in the forest. It _____ be a wolf.
6 Everyone's wearing hats and coats. It _____ be very cold.
7 I can't find my books, but they _____ be at school.
8 It _____ be a fox. It's the size of a small horse!

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 to do the things it does.

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** She's smiling. She must be so pleased with her new pet rabbit.
   b She's smiling. She can't be pleased with her new pet rabbit
5 **a** I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city must be very interesting.
   b I thought that the exhibition about the future of your city might be very interesting.
6 **a** There's a new job available at the café. It could be just what you're looking for.
   b There's a new job available at the café. It must be just what you're looking for.