Deduction and possibility

- We often use ***can***, ***can't***, ***could***, ***may***, ***might*** and ***must*** + **infinitive** without *to* to say how possible or probable we think an action or event is.
  It can't be him! He never wears a hat to a party!
  She's late. She might be stuck in traffic.
  You must be tired after your long trip.
- We use ***can*** to make general statements about possibilities.
  They say that drinking too much coffee can be bad for you.
  Try drinking more water; it can help you feel more awake!
- We use ***can't*** to say that we think something is impossible or cannot be true.
  That can't be Samantha. She's in China!
  They can't be at home. I saw them leaving an hour ago.
- We use ***could***, ***may*** and ***might*** to say we think something is possible.
  You could have an infection; that's why you're feeling bad.
  A: Who's that man?
  B: I don't know. He may be her husband.
  It might be cold outside, so I'll take a coat.
- We use ***must*** when we think something is highly probable.
  She's not answering her phone. She must be busy.

Obligation, prohibition, necessity and advice

- We use ***must*** and ***have to*** to say that it is necessary to do something.
  Visitors must complete the form and then give it to the receptionist.
  We have to fill in this application and then send it to the office.
- We often use ***must*** when the obligation comes from the speaker – it's something the speaker considers important.
  You must do your homework before you go to Greg's house.
  I must get my grandfather a present for his birthday. I forgot last year!
- ***Must*** is followed by an infinitive without *to*.
- We use ***have to*** to say what it is necessary to do.
  You have to answer all the questions in the exam.
  He has to wear a uniform at school.
- We often use ***have to*** when we talk about laws or rules.
  You have to get good exam results to get in to this university.
  He's angry because he has to take his hat off in school.
- ***Have to*** is follow by an infinitive.
- We use ***don't have to*** to say that it is not necessary to do something, but that you can do it if you want.
  You don't have to help me with my experiment.
  She doesn't have to get up early tomorrow.
- Question words go at the beginning of the question.
  How much homework do you have to do every day?
  When do we have to make a decision?
- We use ***had to*** to say that it was necessary to do something in the past.
  I had to leave school early as I wasn't feeling well.
- We use ***can't*** and ***mustn't*** to say something is prohibited by law or rules.
  I can't take my new phone to school – it's the rule.
  You mustn't use your calculator in the exam.
- We use ***need to*** to express necessity in the present. We use ***don't need to*** to show a lack of necessity.
  I need to get home before my parents get angry.
  They don't need to leave now. It's still early.
- We use ***should('nt)*** and ***ought to*** to give advice. ***Should('nt)*** and ***ought to*** both mean 'I think it's (not) a good idea for someone to do this.'
  You should take the bus. It will be faster.
  They shouldn't eat that. They're going to get sick.
  We ought to pay attention. This might be in the exam.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Deduction and possibility

1 Circle the correct options.

1 I'm not sure, but I think this gold (*may not*) / *can't* be real.
2 Reading in bed at night *can* / *must* help you fall asleep quicker.
3 I don't know what's in the box. It *could* / *can* be a present.
4 Harry failed two exams. He *couldn't* / *can't* be very happy.
5 Have a drink of water. You *might* / *must* be very thirsty after the match.
6 The doctor's not very sure. She says it *might* / *must* be serious.

2 Use the prompts to write the second sentence.

1 I haven't eaten all day. You / be hungry
You must be very hungry.
2 It's eleven o'clock at night. Freya / be in bed
3 I feel sick. You / need to sit down
4 That boy looks like Freddie, but Freddie's in Turkey. That / be Freddie
5 Max got up late. He / not arrive on time for his first class
6 That cheese is three weeks old! It / be very smelly

Obligation, prohibition, necessity and advice

3 Are the sentences about obligation (O), prohibition (P), necessity (N) or advice (A)?

1 You mustn't use your mobile phone in class. P
2 I probably don't need to wear a coat today. ___
3 I think Lauren should study engineering. ___
4 You ought to try switching the computer off. ___
5 You must write at least 100 words. ___
6 What do I have to do to be successful? ___

4 Complete the email with the phrases in the box.

don't have to worry	~~don't need to bring~~
have to take	mustn't forget
need to pack	ought to buy

Hi Ethan

I'm so glad you're coming to visit us. It's really warm here, so you [1] *don't need to bring* a coat. However, you [2] _____ your swimming trunks because we're going to the beach. We'll [3] _____ the train, so I [4] _____ our tickets tomorrow. You [5] _____ about bringing a towel because we've got loads, but you [6] _____ your sun cream!!

See you on Friday!

5 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words.

1 Don't shout. I can hear everything you're saying.
You *don't need* to shout because I can hear everything you say.
2 It's not a very good idea to call him now.
You probably _____ him now.
3 I had an appointment with the doctor yesterday.
I _____ and see the doctor yesterday.
4 There's no need to worry about making lunch.
You _____ to worry about making lunch.
5 No running in the corridors.
Students _____ in the corridors.
6 That car must be very expensive.
That car _____ cheap.

LIVEWORKSHEETS