

Unit 6 – Practice 1

1 Complete the sentences with these modals and the infinitive or *be + -ing* form of the verbs.

can't could may not might must

- 1 The children look so unhappy. They can't be having (have) a good time.
- 2 Oh look. Those people were at the conference. Do you think they (get) the same train as us?
- 3 That woman keeps going through the things in her bag. She (look) for something.
- 4 Keiko is so young, but she plays the violin beautifully. She (practise) for hours every day.
- 5 I'm convinced Collin's story is absolutely true. It (be) a hoax.
- 6 I'm not sure, but some of the students (do) an exam this morning. We should leave quietly.
- 7 Mr Henson (be) available right now as he's very busy.

2 Choose the correct option (a or b) that best explains the meaning of the sentence.

- 1 It must have been Philip who phoned.
☒ a Someone phoned – I'm sure it was Philip.
b Philip was supposed to phone, but he didn't.
- 2 The strange light we saw in the sky can't have been a plane.
a It seems possible that the light we saw was caused by a plane.
b It seems impossible that the light we saw was caused by a plane.
- 3 That may not have been Amelia Earhart's hair.
a It's possible it was somebody else's hair.
b We're sure it wasn't Amelia Earhart's hair.
- 4 They must have left in a hurry.
a It's a possibility they left in a hurry.
b There's no other explanation for it other than they left in a hurry.
- 5 Paul might have made a mistake.
a It's possible that Paul was mistaken.
b Paul was certainly mistaken.
- 6 These drawings couldn't have been the work of local people.
a We can be quite sure that local people didn't create them.
b Perhaps local people created them, but we aren't sure if they could.

3 The modals in bold are wrong. Write the correct modals. Sometimes, more than one answer is possible.

- 1 Although they aren't sure, experts believe that people **must** be getting ill from the water. could/might/may
- 2 She **mustn't** be sleeping. I spoke to her on the phone only minutes ago.
- 3 You'd better hurry! You **must** be late if you don't leave immediately.
- 4 Tomorrow's picnic **can't** be cancelled. It all depends on the weather.
- 5 You **could** be so tired! You've been travelling for 24 hours!
- 6 With all these experts involved, it **must** be impossible to solve this mystery!