

6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might*, *can't*, *must*

a Circle the correct verb.

A Don't look now, but isn't that Karen Marshall over there?
 B Where?
 A At that table by the window.
 B No, it ¹**must** / **can't** be. She went to live in Boston.
 A But I'm sure it's Karen.
 B Mmm, I suppose it ²**can** / **might** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.
 A Well it ³**must** / **can't** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!
 B You're right, it is Karen. But who do you think the man is? He ⁴**can't** / **might not** be her husband, can he?
 A No, he ⁵**can't** / **might not** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.
 B It ⁶**can** / **may** be her new boyfriend – or her son!
 A Should we go over and find out?



b Complete the conversations with *must*, *might*, *might not*, or *can't*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

1 A That's the second phone that Stacey's bought this year.
 B She must have a lot of money!
 A She's a student, so she _____ be that rich.
 B She _____ have generous parents then.



2 A Do you know where Charlie is?
 B Well, he _____ be far away. His phone's on the desk.
 A Any idea where he _____ be?
 B He _____ be talking to the boss, or he _____ be in the photocopying room.
 Do you want me to go and look for him?



3 A I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.
 B So, it _____ be from anyone you know.
 A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week.
 They _____ be calling to offer me the job. I'm not surprised. I did a really good interview.
 B Well, don't be too confident, because they _____ be calling to say you didn't get the job.
 A There's only one way to find out!



4 A This steak _____ be for me. It looks medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.
 B It _____ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



ACTIVATION

Practice the conversations with a partner.