

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Deduction and possibility

1 ✱ Match the sentences (1–3) with their meanings (a–c).

- 1 I'm sure it's nice to work as a chocolate taster.
- 2 Perhaps it's nice to work as a chocolate taster.
- 3 I'm sure it isn't nice to work as a chocolate taster.
- a It can't be nice to work as a chocolate taster.
- b It must be nice to work as a chocolate taster.
- c It might be nice to work as a chocolate taster.

2 ✱✱ Look at the sentence *It might be nice to work as a chocolate taster*. Which two modal verbs with the same meaning can we use in place of *might*?

3 ✱ Circle the correct options to describe the pictures.



He can't / must be tired.



He can't / must feel relaxed.



That car can't / must be expensive!



Careful! It might / must be dangerous



It can't / must be raining.



They might / can't still have some good bargains.

4 ✱✱ Complete the conversation about the photo with *must*, *might* or *can't*.



A Look at this photo! What is it?

B It ¹ might be a house!

A No, it ² _____ be! How would you get in?

B It ³ _____ be a fake photo. You never know ...

A No, the photo's real. I think it ⁴ _____ be art or something. There ⁵ _____ be another explanation. I'm sure the artist is famous.

B Perhaps ..., you ⁶ _____ be right. The person who designed it ⁷ _____ be very creative!!

5 ✱✱✱ Rewrite the sentences so that they have the same meaning. Use *must*, *might*, *could* or *can't*.

1 Perhaps Nathan's still at school.

Nathan might/could still be at school. _____

2 I'm sure that isn't the right answer.

3 I'm sure you need good exam results to do medicine at university.

4 This is possibly the worst film I've seen!

5 I'm sure it doesn't take a long time to make that dish.

6 ✱✱✱ Write deductions about these situations. Use *must*, *might* or *can't*.

1 Matt is a professional footballer.

He must be very fit. _____

2 All the shops are closed.

3 Your mobile phone isn't working.

4 Everyone is looking at the sky.