

# MODAL VERBS OF DEDUCTION

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## 1. Choose the Best Modal

Choose must, might, or can't.

1. She's not answering. She _____ be asleep.
2. He's wearing a uniform. He _____ be a police officer
3. They aren't at home. They _____ be at work.
4. That _____ be John's car. His car is blue.
5. It's very dark. It _____ be late.

**👀 Remember 🔎**

Use modal verbs to show how certain you are:

**must** = I'm almost certain

**might / may / could** = possible

**can't** = I'm almost certain it's not true

The lights are on. They must be home.

## 2. What Do You Think?

Read the clues and make a deduction.

*The door is open. The lights are on. There are shoes by the door.*

- They _____ be home.
- Sarah isn't answering her phone. It's 2 a.m.
- She _____ be asleep.
- Tom has a suitcase and a passport.
- He _____ be travelling.

## 3. Match the Clues

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. The ground is wet. | a. He might be going on holiday. |
| 2. Maria is wearing a wedding ring. | b. It must have rained. |
| 3. James has a suitcase. | c. She must be married. |
| 4. The restaurant is empty. | d. It might be closed. |

## 4. Make Your Own Deduction

Choose one situation.

**A:** Your friend doesn't answer the phone at midnight.

**B:** Your neighbour's car isn't outside.

**C:** Your teacher arrives carrying a suitcase.

Write two possible explanations.

1. _____
2. _____

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# ANSWER KEY

## 1. Choose the Best Modal

Possible answers:

1. might / may / could
2. might / may / could
3. might / may / could
4. can't
5. must

## 2. What Do You Think?

Suggested: must | must | must

## 3. Match the Clues

1–b | 2–c | 3–a | 4–d

**4.** Answers will vary.

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