



MODALS OF POSSIBILITY & DEDUCTION

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1. The Mystery at the Office

Read the situation.

- You arrive at the office at 8:30.
- The door is open.
- The lights are on.
- Nobody is there.
- There are two empty coffee cups on a desk.
- A computer is still running.
- A colleague's bag is next to the desk.

Make five deductions.

1. Someone must
_____.
2. Someone might
_____.
3. They could
_____.
4. Your colleague might have
_____.
5. Your colleague can't have
_____.

2. The Missing Meeting

Your colleague was supposed to attend an important meeting at 10:00. He didn't arrive.

You know:

- he left home at 9:00
- his phone is switched off
- there was heavy traffic
- he usually arrives early

Discuss what might have happened.

Use at least: ☐ 2 × might have ☐ 1 × could have ☐ 1 × must have ☐ 1 × can't have

Write your best explanations. _____

3. Choose the best answer

1. The ground is wet.
It ____ during the night.
a) must have rained
b) must rain
c) can't rain
2. Sarah is not answering.
She ____ asleep.
a) might be
b) must have
c) can't have been
3. Tom arrived with a suitcase.
He ____ going on holiday.
a) might be
b) must have
c) can't be
4. The restaurant is completely empty at 10 p.m. It ____ closed.
a) might have been
b) must be
c) can't be
5. He was at home all evening.
He ____ at the party.
a) must have been
b) can't have been
c) might be

4. The Final Detective Challenge

Work with a partner.

The situation

- Your friend planned to catch a 7:00 train.
- He arrived at the station at 7:30.
- He looks worried.
- He has no suitcase.
- His phone is almost dead.
- The next train leaves at 8:00.



5. Final Speaking Challenge

Choose one mystery:

- A** - Your friend didn't come to class.
- B** - Your friend missed a flight.
- C** - Your colleague didn't come to work.
- D** - Someone left a party suddenly.

Create a short mystery for another pair.

Give them **four clues**.

They must make deductions using:

- might
- could
- must
- can't

Then they must explain what they think happened.

Together, work out what might have happened.

You must use:

- might
- could
- must
- can't
- might have
- could have
- must have
- can't have

Then decide:

What is your most likely explanation?

What is your least likely explanation?

REAL ENGLISH BOX – Final Review

Not sure?	"She might be at home."
Possible?	"He could be busy."
Almost certain?	"They must be tired."
Almost certain it isn't true?	"He can't be serious."
Possible past explanation?	"She might have forgotten."
Strong past deduction?	"They must have left."
Strong negative past deduction?	"He can't have seen it."

Teacher's Key

1-2: Open-ended. Accept logical deductions using the required structures.

3. Choose the best answer

1. a
2. a
3. a
4. b
5. b

4-5: Open-ended speaking activities. Check that students use the modal + correct verb form.