

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

MODALS of PROBABILITY (with 'be')

- Find the matching sentences below – Be careful: 5 circles don't match!

I	must be	at work.
You	might be	watching TV.
He	could be	in the classroom.
She	may be	doing homework.
It	can't be	sleeping.
We		tired.
They		a spider.

- **must be** = 95% sure something is possible
- **might be** = maybe
- **could be** = maybe
- **may be** = maybe
- **can't be** = 95% sure something is NOT possible

1. Mr. and Mrs. Olson speak Swedish.

2. Our teacher isn't here today.

3. Canada is smaller than Singapore.

4. Steven is smiling a lot today.

5. My classmate looks wet.

6. I can hear the TV in the living room.

He **might** be happy about the holiday.

She **can't** be driving to work.

It **must** be a dinosaur.

They **must** be from Sweden.

It **may** be raining.

It **could** be broken.

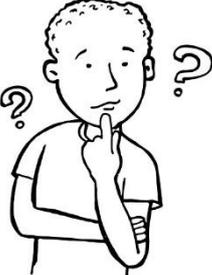
Our kids **must** be watching cartoons.

She **could** be sick today.

It **could** be very important.

He **must** be very hungry.

Really? It **can't** be that small!



Language Focus Modals of Probability (also called 'Modals of Speculation')

Level Intermediate

ANSWER KEY

My Notes



1. Mr. and Mrs. Olson speak Swedish.
They must be from Sweden.
2. Our teacher isn't here today.
She could be sick today.
3. Canada is smaller than Singapore.
It can't be that small!
4. Steven is smiling a lot today.
He might be happy about the holiday.
5. My classmate looks wet.
It may be raining.
6. I can hear the TV in the living room.
Our kids must be watching cartoons.

NOTE: We use the 'be' verb with ...

- 1) **Nouns** Example: "It must be a spider."
- 2) **Verbs + 'ing'** Example: "She might be sleeping."
- 3) **Adjectives** Example: "He could be sick."
- 4) **Prepositions** Example: "It can't be in the kitchen."

Here are some examples of modals of probability WITHOUT 'be' verbs ...

- "She must study in the evening."
- "My plans can't fail."
- "They might have enough money."

Notice that each modal is followed by a present simple verb.