

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

## MODALS of PROBABILITY (with 'be')

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

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

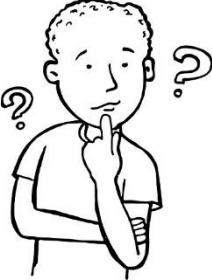
She **could** be sick today.

It **could** be very important.

Our kids **must** be watching cartoons.

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.