GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

MODALS OF PROBABILITY with ‘be’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>You</th>
<th>He</th>
<th>She</th>
<th>It</th>
<th>We</th>
<th>They</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>must be</td>
<td>might be</td>
<td>could be</td>
<td>may be</td>
<td>can’t be</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at work.</td>
<td>watching TV.</td>
<td>in the classroom.</td>
<td>doing homework.</td>
<td>sleeping.</td>
<td>tired.</td>
<td>a spider.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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

Write sentences about the pictures below. Use modals of probability.

1. ______________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________
6. ______________________________________________________
ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary, but below are some possibilities:

1. He **might be** at a birthday party.
2. He **could be** a hunter.
3. He **must be** very happy about something.
4. It **might be** an alien writing a letter to his friend.
5. She **may be** shouting because she’s angry.
6. It **can’t be** real. It **must be** (a scene) from a movie.

**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.”

My Notes