**GRAMMAR WORKSHEET**

**MODALS of PROBABILITY (with ‘be’)**

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

<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><strong>must be</strong></td>
<td><strong>might be</strong></td>
<td><strong>could be</strong></td>
<td><strong>may be</strong></td>
<td><strong>can’t be</strong></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

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.
### ANSWER KEY

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.