+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com · www.englisch-lehrer.com

B1 MODALS ≈ 27 MIN

Modals of Present Deduction — *practice on paper*

You know the certainty ladder - now reinforce sure conclusions, possibilities, and expectations with fresh examples.

Must = sure positive, **can't** = sure negative, may/might/could = possible, should = expected; then use be or be + -ing.

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ○ 2 · FILL-IN ○ 3 · CORRECT ○ 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT THE SURE CONCLUSIONS · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each sentence. **Must** confirms a sure positive conclusion; **can't** confidently rules something out.

Lena must be on the client call.
This parcel can't be for our department.
The printers must be offline.
That signature can't be Daniel's.
Mira must be waiting in the lobby.
The figures can't be from this month.
Your headset must be in the meeting room.
The blue folder can't be the final version.
Sam must be talking to the courier.
This key can't be for the front door.

MUST - SURE POSITIVE	CAN'T - SURE NEGATIVE

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE WITH THE RIGHT MODAL · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Fill in **must**, **can't**, **might**, or **should**. First decide: sure positive, sure negative, possible, or expected?

01 The office is dark and the alarm is on, so the manager _____ be inside.
02 Omar's name is on the live call list; he _____ be speaking to the customer now.
03 I am not certain, but Eva _____ be working from another location today.
04 According to the project plan, the review _____ be complete on Thursday.
05 Her status says 'presenting now', so she _____ be showing the new design.
06 The date on this document is next month, so it _____ be the final copy today.
07 Perhaps the courier _____ be waiting at the side entrance.
08 The revised numbers _____ be ready after the scheduled check this afternoon.

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence contains exactly one error in meaning or form. Underline it and write the complete sentence correctly.

01 Leo mustn't be at reception; I just watched him leave the building.

02 The designers may being in the workshop now.

03 The delivery should to be here before lunch.

04 Our manager must is in the interview room.

05 The support team might be answers customer messages.

06 That caller can't to be our new supplier.

BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN DEDUCTIONS · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one English sentence for each prompt. Use the modal to show exactly how certain your conclusion is.

01 Sure positive: a colleague is away from the desk, but the calendar shows a meeting in progress.

02 Sure negative: a file has a future date and cannot be today's final version.

03 Possibility: you do not know why a colleague is arriving later.

04 Expectation: according to the schedule, the documents will be ready tomorrow.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- [ ] For a sure positive conclusion, I choose must.
- [ ] For a sure negative conclusion, I choose can't, not mustn't.
- [ ] For a possibility, I choose may, might, or could; for an expectation, should.
- [ ] After the modal, I use be or be + -ing.

Not secure on every point yet? Label the degree of certainty in each sentence and then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 **Must** - Lena must be on the client call.
Must marks the sure positive conclusion.

02 **Can't** - This parcel can't be for our department.
Can't confidently rules out the destination.

03 **Must** - The printers must be offline.
Must confirms the positive deduction.

04 **Can't** - That signature can't be Daniel's.
Can't expresses a sure negative conclusion.

05 **Must** - Mira must be waiting in the lobby.
Must be waiting is a sure positive deduction about an ongoing action.

06 **Can't** - The figures can't be from this month.
Can't confidently rules out the stated period.

07 **Must** - Your headset must be in the meeting room.
Must gives a sure positive conclusion about location.

08 **Can't** - The blue folder can't be the final version.
Can't confidently rules out the file's identity.

09 **Must** - Sam must be talking to the courier.
Must be talking strongly deduces an ongoing action.

10 **Can't** - This key can't be for the front door.
Can't marks the sure negative conclusion.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 The office is dark and the alarm is on, so the manager **can't** be inside.
The clues require the sure negative conclusion with can't.

02 Omar's name is on the live call list; he **must** be speaking to the customer now.
Must be speaking is the sure positive deduction about an ongoing action.

03 I am not certain, but Eva **might** be working from another location today.
Might keeps the explanation possible.

04 According to the project plan, the review **should** be complete on Thursday.
Should expresses the expectation from the schedule.

05 Her status says 'presenting now', so she **must** be showing the new design.
Must be showing strongly deduces the ongoing action.

06 The date on this document is next month, so it **can't** be the final copy today.
Can't confidently rules out today's final copy.

07 Perhaps the courier **might** be waiting at the side entrance.
Perhaps signals a possibility with might.

08 The revised numbers **should** be ready after the scheduled check this afternoon.
Should describes the expected result of the plan.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 Leo **can't** be at reception; I just watched him leave the building.
A sure negative conclusion needs can't; mustn't would express prohibition.

02 The designers may **be** in the workshop now.
The modal is followed by the base form be.

03 The delivery should **be** here before lunch.
After should, use be without to.

04 Our manager must **be** in the interview room.
After must, use the base form be, not is.

05 The support team might **be answering** customer messages.
A possible ongoing action needs might be + -ing.

06 That caller can't **be** our new supplier.
After can't, use be without to.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ - just check that the modal, degree of certainty, and form match.

01 "Jordan **must be leading** the workshop now."
Must be leading is a sure positive deduction about an ongoing action.

02 "This **can't be** today's final version."
Can't be confidently rules out the identity.

03 "Nora **might be** on a delayed train."
Might be keeps the explanation possible.

04 "The documents **should be** ready tomorrow."
Should be expresses the expected result.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE
Might, Could, May
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/might-could-may

PREREQUISITE
Must, Have To, Should
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/must-have-to-should

ALL LESSONS
45+ free lessons
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons

HANOVER
Schaufelder Straße 11 · 30167
englisch-lehrer.com/hannover

BERLIN
Kurfürstendamm 30 · 10719
englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

ONLINE COURSES
englisch-lehrer.com/online
worldwide on Zoom

CONTACT
+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com