



## Present Modal Verbs of Deduction and Probability Exercise

Check through the different uses.

TYPE	USE	MODAL VERBS	EXAMPLE
1	to express possibilities for the future	COULD, MAY, MIGHT	It may rain tomorrow.
2	to express certainty	CAN'T, COULDN'T, MUST	She can't be Irish.
3	for possible explanations	COULD, MAY, MIGHT	She could be Scottish.

**A** Look at the following phrases and write in which type you think they are. Then fill the gaps.

- | TYPE |                          |  |
|------|--------------------------|--|
| 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> | They (may/must)..... be away for the weekend but I'm not sure.   |
| 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> | He (can/could)..... be French, judging by his accent.  |
| 3    | <input type="checkbox"/> | They (can't/may)..... still be out!  |
| 4    | <input type="checkbox"/> | With luck, tomorrow (can't/could)..... be a sunny day.   |
| 5    | <input type="checkbox"/> | You (can/might)..... be right but I'm going to check anyway.   |
| 6    | <input type="checkbox"/> | The exam (can't/might)..... be easy. You never know.   |
| 7    | <input type="checkbox"/> | It (may/can't)..... be true about a sauropod dinosaur living in Lake Télé in the Congo. It's impossible. |
| 8    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dave reckons she's from The States but I think she (can't/might)..... be from Scandinavia.               |
| 9    | <input type="checkbox"/> | I (can't/might)..... go to the party but I'm not sure yet.   |
| 10   | <input type="checkbox"/> | This (must/could)..... be the right answer but we'll have to check with your teacher to make sure.       |
| 11   | <input type="checkbox"/> | She (can't/could)..... steal things from shops. She's rich and famous.                                   |
| 12   | <input type="checkbox"/> | I really think Real Madrid (can't/could)..... lose the final of the King's Cup.                          |
| 13   | <input type="checkbox"/> | She's been revising 10 hours a day for 3 weeks. She (could/must)..... be exhausted.                      |
| 14   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nobody's answering. They (can't/must)..... be out.   |
| 15   | <input type="checkbox"/> | He (can't/may)..... be from the USA. He doesn't speak English.   |

**B** Now write some examples of your own.

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....





## Answers

- 1 TYPE 1 They may be away for the weekend but I'm not sure.
- 2 TYPE 3 He could be French, judging by his accent.
- 3 TYPE 2 They can't still be out!
- 4 TYPE 1 With luck, tomorrow could be a sunny day.
- 5 TYPE 3 You might be right but I'm going to check anyway.
- 6 TYPE 1 The exam might be easy. You never know.
- 7 TYPE 2 It can't be true about a dinosaur living in Lake Télé in the Congo. It's impossible.
- 8 TYPE 3 Dave reckons she's from The States but I think she might be from Scandinavia.
- 9 TYPE 1 I might go to the party but I'm not sure yet.
- 10 TYPE 3 This could be the right answer but we'll have to check with your teacher to make sure.
- 11 TYPE 2 She can't steal things from shops. She's rich and famous.
- 12 TYPE 1 I really think Real Madrid could lose the final of the King's Cup.
- 13 TYPE 2 She's been revising 10 hours a day for 3 weeks. She must be exhausted.
- 14 TYPE 2 Nobody's answering. They must be out.
- 15 TYPE 2 He can't be from the USA. He doesn't speak English.

