

Modal Verbs for Deduction

must / can't / might

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

must = almost certain true | can't = almost certain false | might = uncertain

1 Choose must or can't

EASY

Choose must or can't for deduction.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. She studied 10h. She ____ be exhausted. | 2. He just ate. He ____ be hungry now. |
| 3. The light is on. Someone ____ be home. | 4. She speaks 6 languages. She ____ be native of all. |
| 5. He worked all night. He ____ be tired. | 6. She got 100% on every test. She ____ be smart. |
| 7. It's 35°C. You ____ be cold. | 8. The car is gone. He ____ have left. |
| 9. She earns millions. She ____ be poor. | 10. Travelling 20h. They ____ be jet-lagged. |

2 Choose must, can't or might

MEDIUM

Choose the correct modal for certainty level.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No answer, so they ____ be out. (uncertain) | 2. Wearing coat in summer: he ____ be cold-sensitive. |
| 3. She checks forecast, so it ____ rain. (impossible) | 4. Music upstairs: neighbours ____ be having party. |
| 5. 2 days without food: he ____ be starving. | 6. I'm not sure, but she ____ know the answer. |
| 7. He's just a child. He ____ drive a car. | 8. She's smiling: she ____ have received good news. |
| 9. No one knows: he ____ have gone anywhere. | 10. 36h awake: she ____ think straight. (impossible) |

3 Write must / can't / might + verb

HARD

Write the deduction phrase.

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|--|--|
| 1. He knows everyone. He ____ (live) here years. | 2. No sleep in days. She ____ (feel) terrible. |
| 3. That ____ (be) Tom. He's in Brazil. | 4. Passed all exams: He ____ (be) very gifted. |
| 5. Not sure: she ____ (leave) already. | 6. That's impossible! You ____ (be) serious! |
| 7. Baby crying: she ____ (be) hungry. | 8. No reply: he ____ (not/receive) the email. |
| 9. Been to 40 countries: she ____ (love) travel. | 10. Locked + lights off: they ____ (go) out. |

4

Present or Past deduction?**HARDER**

Choose present (must be) or past (must have + pp).

1. She looks pale: She ____ feeling well now.

3. She's crying: Something ____ upset her.

5. He looks relaxed: He ____ on holiday now.

7. Unbelievable story: That ____ be true.

9. He's smiling: He ____ good news.

2. He won easily: He ____ trained very hard.

4. Fridge empty: Someone ____ all the food.

6. She knew every detail: She ____ read the report.

8. Not at party: She ____ the invitation.

10. T-shirt in freezing cold: She ____ be cold.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 must / can't

1 must

2 can't

3 must

4 can't

5 must

6 must

7 can't

8 must

9 can't

10 must

2 Exercise 2 must/can't/might

1 might

2 must

3 can't

4 must

5 must

6 might

7 can't

8 must

9 might

10 can't

3 Exercise 3 Deduction phrases

1 must have lived

2 must feel

3 can't be

4 must be

5 might have left

6 can't be

7 must be

8 might not have received

9 must love

10 must have gone

4 Exercise 4 Present/Past deduction

1 must not be

2 must have trained

3 must have upset

4 must have eaten

5 must be

6 must have read

7 can't be

8 can't have received

9 must have heard

10 must be