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| **Modals: Of Probability** | | |
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| **FORM:** | **Possible Probable**  *(more**certain)* **may must + main verb**  **might + main verb**  *(less certain)* **could** |  |
|  |  | |
| **USE:** | **MAY, MIGHT** and **COULD** can all be used to express possibility, when the speaker is not certain about the topic. **COULD** is the least certain of the modals. **MUST** is used when the speaker is almost certain about a topic (about 90% certain). Like most modals they are followed by the base form of the main verb. The modals can also be used in negatives but modals of probability are not usually used in questions.  No modal is used if a speaker is 100% certain. | |
| **EXAMPLES:** | *It’s very cloudy, so it may rain tonight.*  *Jack has to work late, but he might come to the party after work.*  *I’ve never seen that woman before. She could be our new teacher.*  *Paul is a doctor. He must make a lot of money.*  *She looks upset. She must not have passed the test.*  *I am going to the party. (****100% certain*** *-no modal of probability)* | |

*Decide how certain each speaker is. Circle the best choice to complete each sentence.*

1. A: Why is Penny late every morning?

B: I don’t know. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take her kids to school before she comes to work.

**must have has might have**

2. Sylvia is getting married next weekend. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ excited.

**must be might be could be**

3. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very busy today. I’ve been waiting for two hours.

**could be may be must be**

4. A: Who is that man?

B: I don’t know. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be a new student in our class or a substitute teacher.

**is could be must be**

5. A: Why is Janet not in class today?

B: She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a good reason. She never misses class.

**could have might have must have**