BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take an English Class
Present modals of deduction

Present modals of deduction
You can find this class and all our other English classes on our YouTube channel.

Language quiz
Now let's practise what you learned in this lesson! Complete the gap with the correct modal verb – **could** / **might** / **may**, **must** or **can't**.

Example: He _____ love Japan. He goes there on holiday every year.
Answer: He **must** love Japan. He goes there on holiday every year.

1. She _____ be fit. She runs and cycles everywhere.
2. He never does any exercise, so he _____ be very fit.
3. Lewis isn't answering his phone. He _____ be busy, or he _____ be asleep.
4. Soo-Min doesn't look very happy. She _____ be ill, or she _____ just be having a bad day.
5. I'm not sure where Anita is from, but she speaks Spanish fluently so she _____ be from Spain.
6. She _____ be good with children, she's a nanny!
7. You _____ be exhausted. You've been travelling for hours.
8. Things _____ be easy for her. She got divorced and then she lost her job.

Well done! Now you can check your answers at the bottom of the next page.

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Speaking and writing practice

Use **present modals of deduction** to write at least six sentences about things that you can hear or see where you are right now. For example:

- I can hear a dog barking. It **might** be a neighbour's dog. It **must** be scared or worried or angry because it's barking a lot.
- There is a red car parked outside my home. It **can't** belong to any of my neighbours because I've never seen it before. It **could** be new because it's very shiny.

Language quiz answers

1. She **must** be fit. She runs and cycles everywhere.
2. He never does any exercise, so he **can't** be very fit.
3. Lewis isn't answering his phone. He **could/might/may** be busy or he **could/might/may** be asleep.
4. Soo-Min doesn't look very happy. She **could/might/may** be ill or she **could/might/may** just be having a bad day.
5. I'm not sure where Anita is from, but she speaks Spanish fluently so she **could/might/may** be from Spain.
6. She **must** be good with children, she's a nanny!
7. You **must** be exhausted. You've been travelling for hours.
8. Things **can't** be easy for her. She got divorced and then she lost her job.

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