Modal verbs - must, can’t, could, may and might

1a Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Use each word only once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>can’t</th>
<th>could</th>
<th>might</th>
<th>must</th>
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1 It _________ be Colin. I’m certain it’s him.
2 It _________ be Colin, but it _________ also be John.
3 It _________ be Colin because he doesn’t speak French.

b Which sentences (1–3) show that something is:

a possible  b impossible  c certain

2 Read these sentences. Write P if the sentence shows something is possible, C if it shows something is certain or I if it shows something is impossible.

1 It can’t be ice because it isn’t cold.
2 Jack might be at home because the lights are on.
3 You must be tired because you’ve been working hard all day.
4 A Whose keys are these?
   B They must be John’s. He lost his keys earlier.
5 A Who’s that at the door?
   B It can’t be Paul because he’s at work.
6 I’m sorry. I might be late because the traffic is really bad.

3 Choose the correct word.

HOST What’s the capital city of South Africa? Is it Cape Town, Pretoria or Johannesburg?
PAUL Hm, that’s difficult. What do you think, John?
JOHN I don’t know. It (1) could / must be Cape Town.
DIANA No, it (2) can’t / must be Cape Town because that’s on the coast and I’m sure the capital city isn’t on the coast.
PAUL Yes, you’re right. So it (3) can’t / could be Pretoria or Johannesburg.
JOHN Can we have a clue?
HOST Yes, okay. It isn’t Johannesburg.
PAUL Then it (4) could / must be Pretoria.
HOST That’s right. Here’s your next question. Which is the longest river in Europe? Is it the Volga, the Nile, the Danube or the Rhine.
PAUL Well, it (5) could / can’t be the Nile because that’s in Africa.
JOHN And I know the Rhine is shorter than the Danube, so it (6) can’t / must be that.
PAUL I don’t think it’s the Volga. Is that in Europe?
DIANA Yes, it is. So it (7) could / can’t be the Danube or the Volga.
PAUL Can we ask for another clue?
HOST Yes, the river doesn’t go through Hungary.
DIANA Then it (8) can’t / must be the Volga because the Danube goes through Budapest, which is the capital of Hungary.