

Worksheet 3

Modals – *must, can't, could, may and might*

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

can't could might must

- 1 It _____ be Colin. I'm certain it's him.
- 2 It _____ be Colin, but it _____ also be John.
- 3 It _____ be Colin because Colin doesn't speak French.

1b Which sentences in 1a show that something is:

- a) possible b) impossible c) certainly true?

Write a, b or c next to each sentence.

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 made of ice because it isn't cold.
- 2 Jack might be at home because the lights are on.
- 3 You must be tired because you started working at six o'clock this morning.
- 4 A: Whose keys are these?
B: They must be John's. He lost his keys earlier.
- 5 A: The phone is ringing. Can you answer it?
B: Sure. It may be Paul. He said he'd phone.
- 6 I'm sorry. I might be late because the traffic is really bad.

3 Complete the dialogue using the correct words in italics.

HOST: What's the capital city of South Africa? Is it Cape Town, Pretoria or Johannesburg?

PAUL: Mmmm, 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.