Modals — must, can’t, could, may and might

1a Complete the sentences with these words. 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 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.