Modal Verbs for Certainty, Probability and Possibility — A1

CEFR Level A1 | 3 Worksheets: Maybe or Sure? • Saying No • Reading and Writing | Answer Key Included

Worksheet 1: Maybe or Sure?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Reference: Two Words to Start

Sometimes we know something. Sometimes we do not know. We use **must** and **might** to say this.

Word	Meaning	Example
must	I am sure. Yes!	He **must** be tired. He worked all day.
might	Maybe. I don't know.	It **might** rain today. Look at the sky.

Important: after must and might, use the simple verb.

✓ He must **be** tired. ✗ He must **is** tired.

✓ It might **rain**. ✗ It might **rains**.

✓ She might **go** home. ✗ She might **to go** home.

Exercise A: Sure or Maybe?

Read each sentence. Write SURE or MAYBE.

#	Sentence	SURE or MAYBE?
1	She must be happy.	_____
2	He might be at school.	_____
3	They must be hungry.	_____
4	It might be cold today.	_____
5	You must be Anna's brother.	_____
6	The bus might be late.	_____

Exercise B: Circle the Correct Word

Circle must or might.

1. He is eating a big pizza. He **must** / **might** be hungry.
2. I don't know. She **must** / **might** be at home.
3. She has three dogs. She **must** / **might** like animals.
4. Take your umbrella. It **must** / **might** rain.
5. They are laughing. The film **must** / **might** be funny.
6. Maybe we **must** / **might** go to the park later.

Exercise C: Write must or might

#	Sentence
1	You worked for ten hours. You _____ be very tired.
2	I am not sure. The answer _____ be A.
3	She has a big house and two cars. She _____ be rich.
4	He is not here. He _____ be at the shop, but I don't know.

#	Sentence
5	They speak French at home. They _____ be from France.
6	It is dark outside. It _____ be very late.

Score: _____ / 15

Worksheet 2: Saying No — can't

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Reference: Three Words Now

We use **can't** to say "I am sure NO".

Word	Meaning	Example
must	I am sure YES	She **must** be a teacher. She works at the school.
might	Maybe. I don't know.	She **might** be a teacher. I am not sure.
can't	I am sure NO	She **can't** be a teacher. She is only 12 years old.

Look: we say can't, not "mustn't". "Mustn't" is different — it means STOP, don't do it!

"You **mustn't** run here." = It is a rule. Don't run.

"He **can't** be at home." = I am sure he is not at home.

Exercise A: Choose must, might or can't

#	Sentence
1	That _____ be my teacher. My teacher is a man and this is a woman.
2	The cake is all gone. The children _____ be very hungry!
3	He _____ be in the garden. Let me look.
4	She _____ be 100 years old. She looks very young!
5	Look, the door is open. Someone _____ be at home.
6	I _____ be wrong, but I think this is the right bus.
7	This _____ be my coat. My coat is blue and this one is green.
8	They are wearing big coats. It _____ be cold outside.

Exercise B: Look and Write

Read the information. Write one sentence with must, might or can't.

#	Information	Your sentence
1	A man is sleeping on the sofa at 3 o'clock.	He _____
2	A girl has a big bag and a tennis ball.	She _____
3	A dog is eating a very big dinner.	The dog _____
4	A woman is wearing a T-shirt in the snow.	She _____
5	A boy is smiling and holding a birthday cake.	It _____

Exercise C: Find the Mistake

Write the sentence correctly.

1. "She must to be my sister."

   → _____

2. "It might rains today."

   → _____

3. "He mustn't be French. He is from Italy."

   → _____

4. "They must are at school."

→ _____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 3: Reading and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Part A – Read the Text

Read about Tom. Then answer the questions.

It is Monday morning. Tom is not at school. His friend Lily says: "He might be ill. He was coughing on Friday. Or he might be late — he is often late! He can't be on holiday, because his family goes on holiday in July. His bag is not here, so he must be at home. I can call him after school."

1. Where does Lily think Tom is? Write the sentence with **must**.

_____

2. Why does Lily say Tom **can't** be on holiday?

_____

3. Write one sentence from the text with **might**.

_____

4. Write your own idea. Where is Tom? Use **might**.

_____

Part B – Complete the Conversation

Write must, might or can't.

Speaker	What they say
ANA	Look! Whose phone is this?
BEN	It (1) _____ be Sara's. She was here this morning.
ANA	No, it (2) _____ be hers. Her phone is red and this one is black.
BEN	There is a photo of a cat. The person (3) _____ like cats!
ANA	Marco has a black cat. It (4) _____ be Marco's phone.
BEN	Yes! Look, his name is on it. It (5) _____ be his.

Part C – Write

Your friend is not in class today. Write **four sentences**. Where is your friend? Use **must**, **might** and **can't**.

Example: She might be ill.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 15

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A1 Level Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – Exercise A

1	2	3	4	5	6
SURE	MAYBE	SURE	MAYBE	SURE	MAYBE

Worksheet 1 – Exercise B (Circle)

#	Answer	Why
1	must	Eating a big pizza = we can see the reason.
2	might	"I don't know" = maybe.
3	must	Three dogs = a good reason.
4	might	We take an umbrella for a maybe.
5	must	Laughing = a good reason.
6	might	"Maybe" is in the sentence.

Worksheet 1 – Exercise C

#	Answer	Why
1	must	Ten hours of work = a strong reason.
2	might	"I am not sure" = maybe.
3	must	Big house + two cars = a strong reason.
4	might	"I don't know" = maybe.
5	must	French at home = a strong reason.
6	must	Dark outside = a strong reason.

Worksheet 2 – Exercise A

#	Answer	Why
1	can't	A man and a woman — this is different.
2	must	The cake is gone = a strong reason.
3	might	"Let me look" = we don't know.
4	can't	She looks young = sure NO.
5	must	The open door = a strong reason.
6	might	"I think" = maybe.
7	can't	Blue and green are different.
8	must	Big coats = a strong reason.

Worksheet 2 – Exercise B (Model Answers)

Accept any correct sentence. Samples:

#	Model answer
1	He must be tired. / He might be ill.
2	She must like tennis. / She might be a tennis player.

#	Model answer
3	The dog must be hungry.
4	She must be cold. / She can't be warm.
5	It must be his birthday. / He must be happy.

Worksheet 2 – Exercise C (Mistakes)

#	Mistake	Correct sentence & rule
1	must to be	**She must be my sister.** — No "to" after must.
2	might rains	**It might rain today.** — No -s after might.
3	mustn't be French	**He can't be French.** — For 'sure NO' we use can't. Mustn't means 'don't do it'.
4	must are	**They must be at school.** — Use "be", not "are".

Worksheet 3 – Part A (Reading)

#	Answer
1	He must be at home. (Because his bag is not at school.)
2	Because his family goes on holiday in July — not now, in Monday term time.
3	"He might be ill." or "he might be late" — accept either.
4	Any sensible answer: "He might be at the doctor's." / "He might be on the bus."

Worksheet 3 – Part B (Conversation)

#	Answer	Why
1	might	A first idea — no proof.
2	can't	The colour is different = sure NO.
3	must	The cat photo = a good reason.
4	might	A good idea, but not proof yet.
5	must	His name is on it = sure YES.

Marking Guide — Writing (Worksheet 3 Part C)

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Modals	Uses must, might and can't	0–3
Form	Simple verb after the modal (no "to", no -s, no "is")	0–3
Meaning	Sensible ideas about where the friend is	0–2

Teacher Notes — A1

- **Keep it to three words.** Must, might, can't. Do not introduce may, could, should or perfect modals at A1 — they belong at A2/B1. Even *may* can wait.
- **The form is the lesson.** The main battle at A1 is "must be", not "must is / must to be / must are". Choral drilling of the frame *subject + modal + be* works better than explanation.
- **"Mustn't" is not the opposite of "must".** Learners assume it is. Show the two meanings side by side with a picture (a no-running sign vs. an empty house) and return to it often.
- **Always ask "why?"** A1 learners guess with no reason. Requiring a because-clause teaches the real distinction: *must* and *can't* need evidence, *might* does not.

- **Good classroom activity:** put an object in a bag. Learners feel it and guess — "It might be a key." "It can't be a book, it's too small." "It must be a phone!" This produces all three naturally.