MODAL VERBS FOR CERTAINTY, PROBABILITY AND POSSIBILITY — A2 LEVEL

CEFR Level A2 | 3 Worksheets: Must, Might & Can't • Making Guesses • Reading and Speaking | Answer Key Included

Worksheet 1: Must, Might and Can't — How Sure Am I?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: Three Levels of Sure

We use modal verbs to say how sure we are. We do not always know something 100%. Look at the three levels below.

Modal	How sure?	When we use it	Example
must	95% sure — yes	I have a good reason to think YES	She **must** be tired. She worked all day.
might / may / could	50% — maybe	It is possible. I don't know.	It **might** rain later. Take a coat.
can't	95% sure — no	I have a good reason to think NO	He **can't** be at home. His car isn't here.

Remember: after must, might and can't we use the verb with no "to".

✓ She must **be** tired. ✗ She must **to be** tired.

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

Exercise A: Choose the Correct Modal

Circle the best answer.

1. The light is on. Someone **must** / **can't** be at home.
2. I don't know where my keys are. They **might** / **must** be in the car.
3. That **can't** / **must** be Tom. Tom is in Spain this week.
4. She is smiling a lot. She **must** / **might not** be happy with the news.
5. Take an umbrella. It **can't** / **might** rain this afternoon.
6. He **must** / **can't** be hungry. He ate a big lunch one hour ago.
7. The shop is dark. It **might** / **must** be closed.
8. I'm not sure. The answer **could** / **must** be B.

Exercise B: Complete the Sentences

Write must, might or can't in each gap.

#	Sentence
1	You have not eaten all day. You _____ be very hungry!
2	That _____ be my sister. My sister has short brown hair.
3	I'm not sure about tonight. We _____ go to the cinema.
4	She speaks five languages. She _____ be very clever.
5	He _____ be a doctor. He is only sixteen years old!
6	Look at those clouds. It _____ rain soon.
7	They _____ be tired. They slept for ten hours.
8	I don't know his name. It _____ be David, but I'm not sure.

Exercise C: Find the Mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. "She must to be at work now."
   Correct: _____
2. "It might rains tomorrow."
   Correct: _____
3. "He mustn't be Spanish. He speaks only English."
   Correct: _____
4. "They must are very happy."
   Correct: _____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Making Guesses About People and Places

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – What Do You See?

Look at each situation. Write TWO sentences: one with **must** or **can't**, and one with **might**.

#	Situation	Your sentences
1	A woman is running to the bus stop. The bus is leaving.	must/can't: _____ might: _____
2	A man in a white coat is in a hospital.	must/can't: _____ might: _____
3	A boy is crying in a shop. He is alone.	must/can't: _____ might: _____
4	The restaurant has no cars outside and no lights on.	must/can't: _____ might: _____

Part B – Match the Reason

Match each guess (1–6) with the correct reason (a–f). Write the letter.

#	Guess	Letter	Reason
1	He must be cold.	____	a. She is wearing a wedding dress.
2	She can't be a student.	____	b. He has no coat and it is snowing.
3	They must be brothers.	____	c. There is a lot of food on the table.
4	She must be getting married.	____	d. She is the head teacher of the school.
5	He might be lost.	____	e. They look exactly the same.
6	They must be hungry.	____	f. He is looking at a map and turning around.

Part C – Write About the Picture in Your Head

Imagine you see a person on a train. They have a big suitcase, a passport in their hand, and they are looking at their watch every minute.

Write four sentences about this person. Use must, might and can't at least once each.

_____
_____

_____
_____

_____
_____

_____
_____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 3: Reading and Talking About Possibility

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – Read and Answer

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

It is eight o'clock in the evening. Maria is waiting outside the cinema for her friend Ana. Ana is thirty minutes late. Maria calls her, but Ana does not answer. Maria thinks: "She might be on the bus. The traffic is bad tonight. Or she might be at home — she can't be ill, because I spoke to her this morning and she was fine. Her phone must be off. Ana is never late, so something must be wrong."

1. Find three sentences with **might** in the text. Write them here.

_____

2. Why does Maria say Ana **can't** be ill?

_____

3. Why does Maria think something **must** be wrong?

_____

4. Write one more guess about Ana. Use **might**.

_____

Part B – Complete the Conversation

Write must, might or can't in each gap.

Speaker	What they say
SAM	Whose bag is this? It was here yesterday too.
LEO	It (1) _____ be Anna's. She sat here yesterday.
SAM	No, it (2) _____ be hers. Her bag is red and this one is black.
LEO	Look — there are books inside. The owner (3) _____ be a student.
SAM	There is a name here: "J. Fischer". It (4) _____ be Jonas!
LEO	You're right. That (5) _____ be his — he is the only Fischer in our class.

Part C – Speaking and Writing Task

Your teacher is not in class today. There is a different teacher. Write **five sentences** guessing why. Use **must**, **might**, **could** and **can't**. Try to give a reason for each guess.

Example: She might be ill, because she was coughing yesterday.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 20

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A2 Level Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – Exercise A (Circle)

#	Answer	Why
1	must	The light is evidence for YES.
2	might	Speaker does not know — 50%.
3	can't	Being in Spain is evidence for NO.
4	must	Smiling is evidence for YES.
5	might	A possibility, not a certainty.
6	can't	He ate recently — evidence for NO.
7	must	Dark shop = strong evidence.
8	could	"I'm not sure" signals possibility.

Worksheet 1 – Exercise B (Gap Fill)

#	Answer	Note
1	must	Strong evidence: no food all day.
2	can't	Description does not match.
3	might	"I'm not sure" = possibility.
4	must	Five languages = strong evidence.
5	can't	Age makes it impossible.
6	might	Clouds = possible, not certain.
7	can't	Ten hours of sleep = evidence for NO.
8	might	Explicit uncertainty.

Worksheet 1 – Exercise C (Mistakes)

#	Mistake	Correction & rule
1	must to be	**must be** — no "to" after a modal.
2	might rains	**might rain** — no -s after a modal.
3	mustn't be Spanish	**can't be Spanish** — we never use "mustn't" for a guess. "Mustn't" means it is not allowed.
4	must are	**must be** — use the base form "be", not "are".

Worksheet 2 – Part A (Model Answers)

Accept any correct sentence with a sensible reason. Samples:

#	Model answers
1	She must be late for work. / She might miss the bus.
2	He must be a doctor. / He might be a visitor in a white coat.
3	He can't be happy. / He might be lost. / He might be looking for his mother.
4	It must be closed. / It might be closed on Mondays.

Worksheet 2 – Part B (Matching)

1	2	3	4	5	6
b	d	e	a	f	c

Worksheet 3 – Part A (Reading)

#	Answer
1	She might be on the bus. / she might be at home. (Accept both; the third is "something must be wrong" — that is *must*, so award the point for finding two *might* sentences plus recognising the difference.)
2	Because Maria spoke to her that morning and Ana was fine — this is evidence against illness.
3	Because Ana is never late. The unusual behaviour is strong evidence.
4	Any reasonable guess: "She might be stuck in traffic." / "She might have forgotten."

Worksheet 3 – Part B (Conversation)

#	Answer	Why
1	might	A first guess — no proof yet.
2	can't	The colour is wrong — evidence for NO.
3	must	Books = strong evidence.
4	might	A name is a clue, but not proof.
5	must	"The only Fischer" = certainty.

Marking Guide — Writing Tasks (Worksheet 2 Part C, Worksheet 3 Part C)

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Modal use	Uses must, might and can't correctly at least once each	0–4
Form	Base verb after the modal; no "to", no -s	0–3
Reasons	Gives a sensible reason for each guess	0–3

Teacher Notes — Common A2 Problems

- **"Mustn't" for guesses.** Learners produce "He mustn't be Spanish". In English, mustn't = prohibition (You mustn't smoke). The negative guess is always **can't**. This needs explicit contrast, not just correction.
- **"Must to".** Very common at A2 because learners know "have to". Drill: modal + base verb, always.
- **Third person -s.** "It might rains" — remind learners modals never change and never take -s.
- **Evidence first.** A2 learners often guess with no reason. Insist on "because...". This builds the habit that *must* and *can't* require evidence, while *might* does not.
- **Extension.** Strong groups can meet *may* and *could* as alternatives to *might*. Keep perfect modals (must have been) for B1+.