

Unit 8

Unit 8 Revision

1 Complete the sentences with these modals and the infinitive or *be + -ing* form of the verbs.

can't could may not might must

- The children look so miserable. They *can't be having* (have) a good time.
- Look at those birds. Do you think they (migrate) to warmer places?
- That woman keeps going through the things in her bag. She (look) for something.
- Keiko is so young, but she plays the violin beautifully. She (practise) for hours every day.
- I'm convinced Collin's story is absolutely true. It (be) a hoax.
- I'm not sure, but the turtles (lay) their eggs in the sand now. Let's not get too close.
- Mr Henson (be) available right now as he's very busy.

2 Choose the correct option (a or b) that best explains the meaning of the sentence.

- It must have been Philip who phoned.
 a Someone phoned – I'm sure it was Philip.
b Philip was supposed to phone, but he didn't.
- The strange light we saw in the sky can't have been man-made.
a The light we saw was certainly not caused naturally.
b The light we saw was not caused by something created by humans.
- That may not have been Amelia Earhart's hair.
a It's possible it was somebody else's hair.
b We're sure it wasn't Amelia Earhart's hair.
- That tiny spider must have created this huge web.
a It's a possibility.
b There's no other explanation for it.
- Paul might have made the wrong assumption.
a It's possible that Paul was mistaken.
b Paul was certainly mistaken.
- These drawings couldn't have been the work of local people.
a We can be quite sure that local people didn't create them.
b Perhaps local people created them, but we aren't sure if they could.

3 The modals in bold are wrong. Write the correct modals. Sometimes, more than one answer is possible.

- Although they aren't sure, experts believe African killer bees **must** be taking over European honey bee hives.
could / might / may
- She **mustn't** be sleeping. I spoke to her on the phone only minutes ago.
- You'd better hurry! You **must** be late if you don't leave immediately.
- Tomorrow's picnic **can't** be cancelled. It all depends on the weather.
- Those animals **could** be predators. Look how they're chasing the zebra!
- This phenomenon **must** be properly explained and will always remain a mystery.
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4 Choose the correct option (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

- Her story seems unlikely, but she the truth.
a can't be telling b mustn't tell **c might be telling**
- You'd better stay indoors. The weather forecast says there be a storm later.
a might not b could c must
- You haven't got any mosquito bites, but I'm covered in them. That just be a coincidence!
a must b may c can't
- You my sister in town today. She's in France.
a might not have seen b mustn't have seen c couldn't have seen
- those DNA samples perhaps prove our theory?
a Could b May c Must
- Jen's not in. She her dog for a walk in the park.
a can't have taken b may take c may have taken

5 Look at the first sentence in each pair. Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning. Use the words in bold.

- It's not possible that they were mistaken. **can't**
They *can't have been* mistaken.
- He was lucky he didn't get lost. **could**
He
- Perhaps these statues were sacred. **may**
These statues sacred.
- It's impossible that the bone wasn't human. **can't**
The bone human.
- I'm sure someone was in the room earlier. **must**
Someone in the room earlier.
- It isn't certain that humans lived here. **might not**
Humans here.