



# Modal verbs



# Must, may, might, can't - в значении предположения

- **Must** - должно быть
- **May** - может быть
- **Might** - может быть  
(но маловероятно)
- **Can't** - не может быть



# Translate from Russian into English

- Они, должно быть, живут в Санкт-Петербурге.
- Они, может быть, живут в Санкт-Петербурге.
- Может быть, они и живут в Санкт-Петербурге.
- Не может быть, что они живут в Санкт-Петербурге.





## Grammar spot

Modals of speculation and deduction: *could*, *may/might*, *can't* and *must*

Look at the examples below and complete the rules with *could*, *may/might*, *can't* and *must*.

- a We use could and might to talk about things which are possible but not certain.
  - b We use can't to talk about things we believe aren't true.
  - c We use must to talk about things we believe are true.
- 1 His foot **must** hurt.
  - 2 It **could** be an advertisement for a film or it **might** be an advertisement for a city.
  - 3 This **can't** be an advertisement for a beauty product.

Note that we use *could*, *may/might*, *can't* and *must* with an infinitive without *to*.



Where's my bag?



1 *It might be under my bed.*

1 I think perhaps it's under my bed.  
It \_\_\_\_\_ under my bed.

2 No, it's not there. Well, maybe it's in the cupboard downstairs.

It **may/might be** in the cupboard downstairs.

3 It's definitely not in the kitchen because I've already looked there.

It **can't be** in the kitchen because I've already looked there.

4 Mum probably knows where it is.

Mum **may/might know** where it is.

5 What's that noise?  
It's my phone. And my phone's in my bag.  
So my bag is definitely in this room!

My bag **must be** in this room!



Make sentences with *could*, *may/might*, *must* and *can't* about these situations.

1 I've switched on the TV but there's no picture on the screen.

must / be / broken

**The TV must be broken.**

2 I can hear a strange noise from the garden.

could / be / a fox

**It could be a fox.**

3 Who's that boy with the red hair?

can't / be / James / because / have / blond hair

**It can't be James because he's got blond hair.**

4 Where's your coat?

might / be / in the car / or / could / be / at Tom's house

**It might be in the car or it could be at Tom's house.**

5 Look! There's a ghost at the window!

can't / be / a ghost / must / be / your little brother

**It can't be a ghost. It must be your little brother.**

