

MODAL VERBS. DEDUCTION ABOUT THE PRESENT

Example:

Someone is knocking on the door. I'm sure it's my brother – he promised to come today. Someone is knocking on the door. It <u>MUST</u> be my brother – he promised to come today.

- 1. I'm sure he is here I can see his car in front of the building. He **MUST** be here. I can see his car in front of the building.
- 2. They're coming this week but I don't know which day.
 - They MAY / COULD / MIGHT be coming tomorrow.
- 3. I'm not sure I'm going to pass the exam. I don't feel very confident. I MAY NOT / MIGHT NOT pass the exam. I don't feel very confident.
- 4. I've bought a lottery ticket. There's a chance I'll become a millionaire!
 - I MAY / COULD / MIGHT become a millionaire!
- 5. I'm sure she doesn't speak French very well she's only lived in Paris for a few weeks. She **CAN'T** speak French very well. She's only lived in Paris for a few weeks.
- 6. My key's not in my pocket or on my desk so I'm sure it's in the drawer. My key's not in my pocket or on my desk so it **MUST** be in the drawer.
- 7. Someone told me that Mark was in Mexico but I saw him yesterday so I'm sure he's not abroad. Mark **CAN'T** be abroad.
- 8. You got the job? That's great. I'm sure you're delighted. You got the job? That's great. You <u>MUST</u> be delighted.
- 9. They told me to prepare the project by tomorrow but it's almost impossible to have it done so fast.
 - I MAY / MIGHT / COULD finish it by tomorrow if I stay at work all night, but I'm not sure.
- 10. I asked them to send the goods as soon as possible; we <u>MAY / MIGHT / COULD</u> receive them by the end of the week if the post is fast.