Present modals of deduction
You can find this class and all our other English classes on our YouTube channel.

Language quiz
Now let’s practise what you learned in this lesson! Complete the gap with the correct modal verb – could / might / may, must or can’t.

Example: He ______ love Japan. He goes there on holiday every year.
Answer: He must love Japan. He goes there on holiday every year.

1. She ______ be fit. She runs and cycles everywhere.
2. He never does any exercise, so he ______ be very fit.
3. Lewis isn’t answering his phone. He ______ be busy, or he ______ be asleep.
4. Soo-Min doesn’t look very happy. She ______ be ill, or she ______ just be having a bad day.
5. I’m not sure where Anita is from, but she speaks Spanish fluently so she ______ be from Spain.
6. She ______ be good with children, she’s a nanny!
7. You ______ be exhausted. You’ve been travelling for hours.
8. Things ______ be easy for her. She got divorced and then she lost her job.

Well done! Now you can check your answers at the bottom of the next page.
Speaking and writing practice

Use present modals of deduction to write at least six sentences about things that you can hear or see where you are right now. For example:

- I can hear a dog barking. It might be a neighbour’s dog. It must be scared or worried or angry because it’s barking a lot.
- There is a red car parked outside my home. It can’t belong to any of my neighbours because I’ve never seen it before. It could be new because it’s very shiny.

Language quiz answers

1. She must be fit. She runs and cycles everywhere.
2. He never does any exercise, so he can’t be very fit.
3. Lewis isn’t answering his phone. He could/might/may be busy or he could/might/may be asleep.
4. Soo-Min doesn’t look very happy. She could/might/may be ill or she could/might/may just be having a bad day.
5. I’m not sure where Anita is from, but she speaks Spanish fluently so she could/might/may be from Spain.
6. She must be good with children, she’s a nanny!
7. You must be exhausted. You’ve been travelling for hours.
8. Things can’t be easy for her. She got divorced and then she lost her job.