48 Verbs: modals of probability
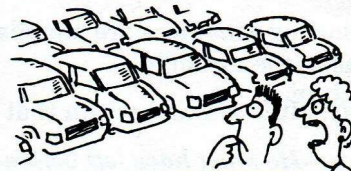
You *must be* the new sales assistant.

When we know that something is true, we use a normal present tense. (He *does* it, I *see* them, etc.) If we are not completely sure, we use a modal (*must, may, might, could*). The choice of modal depends on the degree of certainty, as in the following table.

PROBABILITY	VERB	EXAMPLE
100%	present tense	*She knows.*
almost certain	*must*	*It must be late.*
quite likely	*may*	*You may find this difficult.*
50% (possible)	*could* } + infinitive	*It could happen at any time.*
possible but unlikely	*might*	*She might be waiting.*
highly unlikely	*can't / couldn't*	*You can't be serious.*
0%	present tense negative	*He doesn't know.*

Rewrite the following sentences using a modal from the above table, as in the example. (Make sure that you retain the continuous or simple aspect.)

Example: It is almost certain that you know where you left your car.

You must know where you left your car!

1 It is highly unlikely that they are coming this evening.

2 It's quite likely that Joan enjoys football.

3 It's possible that this fish weighs over 15 kilos.

4 It's possible he'll find the answer but not likely.

5 It's highly unlikely that the government intends to increase taxes.

6 It's almost certain that he is influenced by local opinion.

7 It's unlikely to snow this winter, though possible.

8 You are quite likely to find him in his office.

9 It's almost certain that you are exhausted.

  you must be

10 This disease is possibly contagious.