

Unit 10: MODAL VERBS OF PROBABILITY

We can use these modal verbs (also called modals of *deduction, speculation* or *certainty*) when we want to make a guess about something. The choice of verb says how sure we are.

Modal verbs, that can express probability are:

- *must* (positive certainty)
It's snowing, so it **must be** very cold outside.
- *could, may, might* (uncertainty / possibility)
I don't know where John is. He **could have missed** the train.
- *can't* (negative certainty)
This bill **can't be** right. 20\$ for two cups of coffee!
- *should* (positive expectation)
They **should be** here by now.

Past tense form: *modal verb + have + past participle*

Related verbs:

- be bound to
- be likely to

EXERCISES:

- <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-1.html>
- <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/modal-verbs-of-probability-exercise-2.html>
- <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/could-have-should-have-would-have-exercise-1.html>