



MODAL VERBS OF PROBABILITY

PROBABILITY

- may / might / could express uncertainty
 - She could be lost.
- should expresses positive expectation
 - They should be here by now.
- will / must express positive certainty
 - She must be on the bus.
- won't / can't express negative certainty
 - She can't be at home.

PROBABILITY

Must and can't are used to express what we conclude to be the most logical interpretation of a situation.

Will and won't are used to express what we believe or guess to be true about the present.

Modal verbs must and can't aren't used in other forms:

- I'm not sure, but it ~~can~~ be Sally.
- She didn't answer. She ~~mustn't~~ be at home.

Related verbs:

- be bound to
- be likely to

PAST FORMS

Modal verb	Positive	Negative	Past Form
Must	It must be late.		It must have been late.
May	She may be from England.		She may have been from England.
Could	She could be asleep.		She could have been asleep.
Might	He might call.		He might have called.
Should	They should be here by now.		They should have been here by now.
Can't		It can't be late.	It can't have been late.

EXERCISES

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