

Exercices modaux de certitude

Exercices d'anglais - niveau 1re

Ces exercices modaux de certitude vous font graduer vos hypothèses, du quasi certain à l'impossible. Ensuite, vous travaillerez au présent puis au passé, avant de mener une petite enquête et de commenter une image mystère.

Cette fiche d'exercices est à **télécharger en PDF et à imprimer gratuitement** : le bouton se trouve en bas de la page, sans inscription.

Les exercices

Onze exercices modaux de certitude pour nuancer

Exercice 1 : Placer sur l'échelle

Indiquez le degré exprimé par chaque phrase : A quasi-certitude positive, B probabilité, C possibilité, D improbabilité, E impossibilité.

1. She must be at home: her car is outside.
2. That can't be Tom; he's in Australia.
3. It might rain later.
4. The parcel should arrive tomorrow.
5. They're bound to win the cup.
6. He's unlikely to come to the party.
7. The keys could be in the car.
8. It's likely to be cold in the Highlands.

Exercice 2 : Must ou can't

Complétez avec must ou can't.

1. You've been travelling all day. You ___ be exhausted.
2. That ___ be the right answer: we're measuring a length and it's negative.
3. Listen to that accent. He ___ be from Liverpool.
4. She ___ be hungry; she's just had a huge lunch.
5. The lights are off. They ___ be out.
6. He ___ be serious! Look, he's smiling.
7. You got full marks? You ___ be very proud.
8. This ___ be the Smiths' house: theirs is blue, and this one is red.

Partie 2

Exercice 3 : Base verbale, be + -ing ou have + participe

Mettez le verbe entre parenthèses à la forme qui convient après le modal.

1. Where's Sam? - He might (sleep) ___; his door is closed.
2. They can't (finish) ___ already; they only started ten minutes ago.
3. She must (work) ___ late tonight; the office lights are still on.
4. You must (be) ___ Mrs Jones. Nice to meet you.
5. He may (take) ___ the wrong road yesterday.
6. It could (be) ___ a fake; the colours look too bright.

Exercice 4 : Hypothèses sur le passé

Réécrivez chaque phrase avec must, can't, may ou might + have + participe passé.

1. I'm sure he forgot our appointment.
2. It's impossible that she saw us; it was dark.
3. Perhaps they missed the train.
4. I'm certain the museum was closed on Monday.
5. It's possible that the email went to your spam folder.
6. It's impossible that he wrote this essay alone.

Exercice 5 : Be likely to, be unlikely to, be bound to

Réécrivez avec l'expression indiquée entre parenthèses.

1. It will probably snow tonight. (likely)
2. They will certainly be late; they always are. (bound)
3. She probably won't accept the offer. (unlikely)
4. It is probable that prices will rise. (Prices... likely)
5. You will certainly find a job with your degree. (bound)
6. It is likely that the match will be cancelled. (The match... likely)

Partie 3

Exercice 6 : L'enquête de l'inspecteur Hale

Lisez les notes de l'inspecteur, puis complétez chaque déduction avec must have, might have ou can't have + le participe passé du verbe entre parenthèses.

Inspector Hale's notebook, 7 a.m. Fresh footprints in the snow lead from the back door to the garden gate; they are very large. The study window is broken, but the glass is outside, on the lawn. Après cela, the safe is open and the lock is not

damaged. The dog slept in the hall all night and didn't bark. Puis on the desk, two cups of tea: one has a trace of red lipstick.

1. The thief (leave) ___ through the garden gate.
2. The thief (break) ___ in through the window: the glass fell outside.
3. The thief (know) ___ the code of the safe.
4. The dog (recognise) ___ the visitor.
5. The thief (hear) ___ a noise and (break) ___ the window to escape, but we have no proof.
6. A woman (drink) ___ tea with the owner, but the lipstick is not enough to be sure.

Partie 4

Exercice 7 : Corriger les erreurs

Corrigez l'erreur de chaque phrase.

1. He mustn't be French: his accent is clearly American.
2. She must has left early.
3. You might to be right.
4. It is likely to raining this afternoon.
5. He must have went home.
6. They are bound win the election.
7. May be she is at the library.

Exercice 8 : Traduire en anglais

Traduisez en anglais en choisissant le degré de certitude juste.

1. Il doit être malade : il n'est jamais absent.
2. Ce ne peut pas être vrai.
3. Ils ont dû se perdre.
4. Elle a peut-être raté son bus.
5. Il va forcément pleuvoir pendant le pique-nique.
6. Ils ne peuvent pas avoir oublié.

Exercice 9 : Traduire en français

Traduisez en français.

1. You could have been killed!
2. That'll be the delivery man.
3. He's likely to be elected.
4. You might have told me!

5. The train should be here any minute.

Exercice 10 : Le portefeuille sur le banc

Complétez le dialogue avec les mots suivants, chacun une seule fois : must, might, can't, bound, unlikely, likely.

Mia: Look, a wallet on the bench! Someone (1) ___ have dropped it a few minutes ago: it's dry, and it's been raining all morning.

Leo: It (2) ___ be the old man's we saw earlier. He was sitting here, but I'm not sure.

Mia: It (3) ___ be his. There's a student card inside, for a twenty-year-old girl.

Leo: With all that cash in it, she's (4) ___ to come back for it.

Mia: True, she's (5) ___ to give up easily.

Leo: And it's very (6) ___ that she has already called her bank. Let's take it to the police station.

Partie 5

Exercice 11 : Production guidée

Imaginez la photo suivante : la nuit, sur le quai désert d'une gare écossaise, une valise ouverte, un billet pour Inverness et un bouquet de fleurs fanées. Écrivez une hypothèse par consigne.

1. Une quasi-certitude sur le présent (must).
2. Une impossibilité sur le présent (can't).
3. Une possibilité sur le présent (might ou may).
4. Une déduction sur le passé (must have).
5. Une impossibilité sur le passé (can't have).
6. Une prévision probable (be likely to ou be bound to).

Exercice 12 : Should : conseil ou attente ?

Dans chaque phrase, *should* exprime soit un conseil (A), soit une attente raisonnable, une probabilité (B). Indiquez A ou B. Réécrivez ensuite les phrases de type B avec *be likely to*.

1. The bus should be here in five minutes.
2. You should see a doctor about that cough.

3. With this traffic, they should arrive by noon.
4. We should recycle more plastic.
5. The results should be online by Friday.
6. He shouldn't drive when he is tired.
7. The film should be good: the reviews are excellent.

Exercice 13 : Les négations de la certitude

Associez chaque phrase à son sens : A impossible (presque sûr que non), B peut-être pas, C interdiction, D inutile (pas besoin).

1. He can't be the thief; he was in hospital that night.
2. She may not come tonight; she is very tired.
3. You mustn't tell anyone.
4. They might not know the way.
5. That can't have been Lucy: she lives in Canada.
6. It may not be true.
7. You needn't worry.

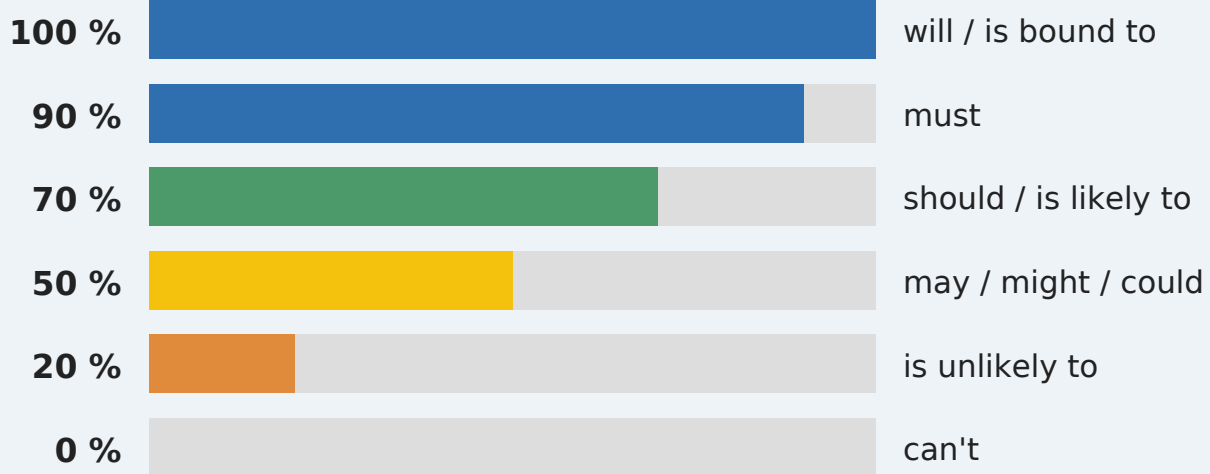
Exercice 14 : Modal ou adverbe ?

Réécrivez chaque phrase avec un adverbe (*perhaps, maybe, probably, certainly, definitely*) à la place du modal, sans changer le sens.

1. She may be right.
2. He might have forgotten.
3. They should be home by now.
4. It could be a mistake.
5. He must be tired.
6. It can't be true.

Exercice 15 : Du pourcentage au modal

Observez l'échelle. Écrivez une phrase avec le modal ou l'expression qui correspond au pourcentage de certitude indiqué.



Du plus sûr au plus improbable

1. Our team / win the cup (70 %)
2. It / snow tonight (50 %)
3. The plane / be late (20 %)
4. Mrs Hart / be in her office (90 % : her coat is on the chair)
5. The shop / be open on Sunday (0 % : it is always closed on Sundays)
6. The sun / rise tomorrow (100 %)

Exercice 16 : Texte : l'épave

Lisez le texte, puis répondez en anglais par des phrases complètes.

In 2019, divers found the wreck of a sailing ship off the coast of Cornwall. The ship must have sunk more than two hundred years ago: the hull is covered with shells and the cannons are of an old type. It can't have been a warship, since only three small cannons were found. Historians think it might have carried tea or silk, but nobody can be sure. The captain's logbook may have survived inside a sealed box; if so, it should reveal the ship's name. Meanwhile, the divers are bound to find more objects, because the site is huge.

1. What makes the divers think the ship sank more than two hundred years ago?
2. Why can't it have been a warship?
3. What might the ship have carried?
4. What should the logbook reveal, if it survived?
5. Why are the divers bound to find more objects?

Exercice 17 : Le colis mystérieux

Complétez le dialogue avec les expressions de la boîte. Chacune est utilisée une seule fois : **could - can't - must - should - bound to**.

1. A : There is a parcel on the table. There is no name on it.
2. B : It be for your dad: he often orders things online.

3. A : It ___ be a book: it is far too heavy.
4. B : Then it ___ be the new printer. The shop said it would arrive this week.
5. A : It ___ come with a manual, so we will be able to install it.
6. B : And your dad is ___ be pleased when he sees it!

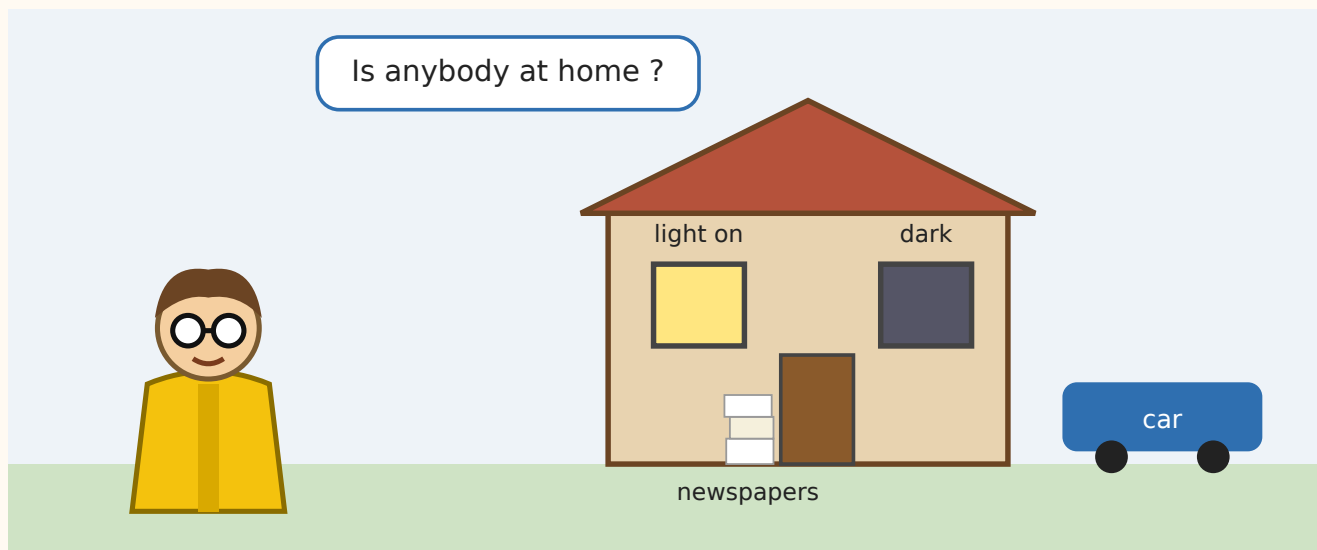
Exercice 18 : Indices et conclusions

Pour chaque indice, écrivez une conclusion avec un modal de certitude ou une expression équivalente. Le sujet et le verbe vous sont donnés entre parenthèses.

1. The lights are on and music is playing in the flat. (the neighbours / be in)
2. Rob's phone goes straight to voicemail. (he / be on a plane)
3. The footprints are too large for a child. (a child / make them)
4. The sky is full of dark clouds and the wind is rising. (it / rain soon)
5. Her suitcase is gone and a taxi is waiting outside. (she / leave)
6. Tom's answer is different from everybody else's. (he / misunderstand the question)

Exercice 19 : Observer et déduire

Observez l'image. Rédigez cinq phrases : deux avec *must* ou *can't*, deux avec *may*, *might* ou *could*, une avec *be likely to* ou *be unlikely to*.



Qui est dans la maison ?

Exercice 20 : Production : un mystère

Rédigez un paragraphe de 100 mots environ qui raconte un petit mystère (un bruit étrange, une salle vide, un tableau disparu). Employez au moins cinq expressions de certitude différentes, dont une forme du passé (*must have*, *may have*, *can't have*...).