

**MODEL VERBS FOR LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS: THE LIKELIHOOD: CERTAINTY, POSSIBILITY**

**1: CERTAINTY**

To say something is certain (true)

Q: Where is Janette?

She <b>must</b>	be <b>working</b> .
She <b>must</b>	be at the office
She <b>can't / couldn't</b>	be at the beach?

**GRAMMAR NOTE:**

**Modal Verb + BARE INFINITIVE**

She **must** be at the office

**GRAMMAR NOTE:**

**THE LIKELIHOOD SCALE:**

**MUST** - 100% **MIGHT / MAY** 75% **COULD** 50%



NB: **Could** can also express one of many options or ideas. E.g, Q: Where is Sandy?

I'm not sure, she **could** be at the office, or she **could** be at home.

**2: POSSIBILITY**

To say something is possible ( 75% certain it is true, but not 100% sure)

Q: 1 How are they feeling? **PRESENT**

Q: 2 Whose bag is that? **PRESENT**

Q: 3 What are you doing tomorrow? **FUTURE**

Q: 4 Are you going out tonight? **FUTURE**

Q: 5 What did Alex do yesterday? **PAST**

1 He <b>might/may/could</b>	be <b>feeling</b> happy?
2 I'm not sure, it <b>might/may/could</b>	be Janette's
3 I'm not sure, I <b>might/may</b>	<b>go</b> to the beach
4 I'm not sure, I <b>might not /may not</b>	<b>go out</b> because I must finish some work
5 I'm not sure, he <b>might</b>	<b>have gone</b> to the beach ( <b>MIGHT + PRESENT PERFECT</b> )