

## 6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might, can't, must*

a Circle the correct verb.

A Don't look now, but isn't that Karen Marshall over there?

B Where?

A At that table by the window.

B No, it <sup>1</sup>**must** / **can't** be. She went to live in Boston.

A But I'm sure it's Karen.

B Mmm, I suppose it <sup>2</sup>**can** / **might** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.

A Well it <sup>3</sup>**must** / **can't** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!

B You're right, it is Karen. But who do you think the man is? He <sup>4</sup>**can't** / **might not** be her husband, can he?

A No, he <sup>5</sup>**can't** / **might not** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.

B It <sup>6</sup>**can** / **may** be her new boyfriend – or her son!

A Shall we go over and find out?



b Complete the conversations with *must, might, might not, or can't*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

1 A That's the second phone that Stacey's bought this year.

B She **must** have a lot of money then!

A She's a student, so she \_\_\_\_\_ be that rich.

B She \_\_\_\_\_ have generous parents then.



2 A Do you know where Charlie is?

B Well, he \_\_\_\_\_ be far away. His phone's on the desk.

A Any idea where he \_\_\_\_\_ be?

B He \_\_\_\_\_ be talking to the boss, or he \_\_\_\_\_ be in the photocopying room.

Do you want me to go and look for him?



3 A I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.

B So, it \_\_\_\_\_ be from anyone you know.

A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week.

They \_\_\_\_\_ be ringing to offer me the job. I'm not surprised. I did a really good interview.

B Well, don't be too confident, because they \_\_\_\_\_ be calling to say you didn't get the job.

A There's only one way to find out!



4 A This steak \_\_\_\_\_ be for me. It looks medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.

B It \_\_\_\_\_ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



### ACTIVATION

Practise the conversations with a partner.