

### Logical Assumptions (Must-Can't/Couldn't)



They're wearing light clothes.  
It **must** be summer.  
It **can't** be winter.

- ◆ **must** = I'm sure/certain that sth is true  
**Must** is used in affirmative sentences and expresses positive logical assumptions.  
e.g. It is Sunday. He **must** be at home. (I'm sure he is at home.)
- ◆ **can't/couldn't** = I'm sure that sth isn't true, real, etc.  
**Can't** and **Couldn't** are used in negations and expresses negative logical assumptions.  
e.g. It is Sunday. He **can't/couldn't** be at work. (I'm sure he isn't at work.)

### Probability (Should/Ought)



It's four o'clock.  
The children **should** be/**ought** to be home by now.

- ◆ **should/ought** = probably  
**Should** and **ought** are used to express that something is likely to happen in the present or future.  
e.g. It's 10 o'clock. He **should** be/**ought** to be at work.

### Possibility (Can-Could/May-Might)



- ◆ **can + present infinitive** = general possibility - it is theoretically possible  
This structure is used in affirmative sentences to show that something is possible theoretically or in general, that is, when we are not referring to a specific situation.  
e.g. This road **can** get very busy.  
(In general, not in a specific situation.)
- Could/May/Might + present infinitive** = it is possible/it is likely/perhaps  
It is used to show that something is likely to happen in a specific situation.  
e.g. The roads **could/may/might** get very busy tomorrow afternoon because there is a demonstration. (NOT: The roads ~~can~~ get ...)
- NOTE:** In questions we use **can** (to talk about general or specific possibility), **could** or **might**. We do not use **may**.  
e.g. 'I got a bouquet of flowers, but there was no card.'  
'Who **can/could/might** they be from?'
- ◆ **could/might + perfect infinitive** (refers to the past) = it was possible, but it didn't happen  
e.g. Yesterday, I left the car unlocked. It **could/might** have been stolen, but luckily it wasn't.

4

Look at the pictures and answer the questions using **must/can't**, as in the example.

e.g. *No, they can't be in the city.*



Are they in the city?  
Are they tired?  
Do they know each other?



Do they go fishing often?  
Is it winter?  
Are they bored?



Did they walk up the mountain?  
Do they enjoy walking?  
Is the weather very hot?



Has she been interviewing the man?  
Is she a reporter?  
Are they in an office?