

Models of Education

It is possible to use the modals *might*, *must*, *could*, *can't* to create expressions with a sense of deduction.

For example: Look at the present in the picture. The sentences below show what can be deduced from observing its shape and size. Notice that each sentence expresses a different level of assuring or not assuring what is inside by using a different modal (*might*, *must*, *could* or *can't*).



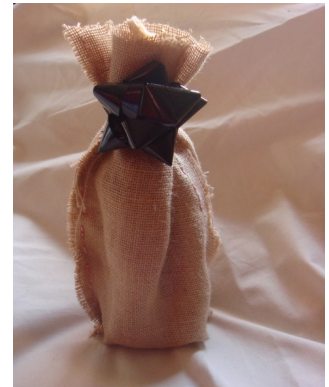
(There is a possibility but it's not for sure.)

{ *It might be a jar of honey.*
It could be a jar of honey.



(There is no doubt, it is for sure.)

{ *It can't be a box of candy!*
It must be a bottle of wine!



- Notice that *might* and *could* are used to express there is possibility but it is still unsure.
- Observe that *can't* (only in negative form) and *must* are used to express there is no doubt.
- A verb in base form follows the modal. Here are more examples:
It could rain today. There are some clouds in the sky. (It is possible.)
That girl in blue jeans over there must be Nancy. I am sure!
Eduardo might come late today. There is so much traffic.
I am sure this can't be the correct answer to this exercise!