Speculating!

1 Choose one of the words from the box below to fill each gap below.

- could
- might
- may
- can
- must
- can’t

1 You’ve been playing tennis in this hot sun for almost four hours. You ______ be thirsty!
2 Does anyone know where Sophie works? I’m not sure, I think it ______ be West London.
3 It ______ get quite noisy in this classroom when everyone arrives in the mornings.
4 Surely she ______ know about the secret holiday we’ve planned. We’ve told nobody!
5 I feel very tired. I think I ______ be getting a cold.
6 Do you think you ______ go to the summer camp if you save up enough money?

2 Things that go bump in the night!
Read each sentence below and then expand it to explain what you think the noise is using must, could, might, may, can and can’t.

1 There’s a loud bang on a window downstairs, and it’s very windy outside.
2 There’s a crashing noise in the kitchen.
3 In the hall, there’s a loud thud.
4 A snoring noise is coming from the bedroom.
5 There’s a scream from a TV programme.
6 There’s a creaking noise outside in the garden.
Speculating!

TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to provide further practice of present/future modals of possibility and making speculations. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 1.3.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student

1 Tell students to complete the sentences using the modals in the box. Give students time to compare answers, and then check them with the class.

**Answers:**

1 must  2 could/might/may  3 can  4 can’t
5 could/might/may  6 might/could/may

2 Students revise vocabulary to describe noise through this speculation exercise. Get students to read each sentence and then speculate using *may/might/can/can’t/could/must* to speculate as to what each noise could be. Monitor whilst they work to check they are on the right lines. Encourage students to be creative or funny - the main thing is to get the language flowing. Elicit students’ answers and encourage peer correction.

**Possible answers:**

1 It might be something from the garden thrown against the window in the rain.  2 It could be a plate or a cup that has fallen off the cupboard.  3 That must be the cat jumping into the house through the window.  4 That can’t be mum. She sleeps so quietly!  5 That might be a scary movie.  6 It may be a tree moving in the wind.