



Where is Andrew Mcstag? Teaching Materials for students

Modal verbs – a presentation

The show contains many examples of the modal verbs that can be used for deductions and describing different levels of possibility. They are

Must	(100% definitely)
May	(possibly)
Could	(possibly)
Might	(possibly)
Can't	(100% definitely not)

To form a sentence in the present we use the modal verb and the infinitive of another verb. For example:

*My father isn't picking up the phone. At first I thought he **must be** busy, then I realised that he **may not have** his phone with him or that he just **might not want** to talk to me.*

To form a sentence in the past we use the modal verb, the verb 'have' and the past participle of another verb. For example:

*Yesterday I lost my glasses. At first I thought I **may have lost** them on the bus, or that somebody **may have stolen** them. Finally I worked out though that I **must have left** them at home.*

Practice exercise 1

Look at this list of animals.

Dog, Bat, Mole, Horse, Dolphin, Pig, Deer, Fish, Duck, Whale.

Your teacher will describe some of the animals using a series of sentences. After each sentence they will pause and you have to make sentences with modal verbs and 'be'. For example, if your teacher says

'This animal can live on a farm.' you could say *'It can't be a dolphin.'* *'It might be a duck.'* etc. After the last sentence of each section it should be clear what the animal is so you can say *'It must be a*

Your teacher will say if the example is for present tense or past tense.

Practice exercise 2

Here are some things that happen in the story. For each one try to make some deductions using modal verbs. Think of possibilities why they happen, or in some cases think of what people must/may have said. You can do this making sentences which use present tense or past tense (if you use the verbs which are in brackets instead of the verbs which are in the sentence).

- A student called Andrew McStag has run (ran) away from his home in Chicago.
 - His mother goes (went) to Detective Novotny and tells (told) him what has (had) happened.
 - Novotny talks (talked) to Andrew's best friend from school, Bernie.
 - Novotny drives (drove) to a town called Sutton, one hour away from the Chicago.
 - He puts (put) posters all around the town.
 - He talks (talked) to different people in the town. He talks (talked) to
- i) Tony Tuff. Tony is a bouncer, a type of security man who works outside a music club. He takes the tickets of all the people who go into the club.
 - ii) Agatha Goodbody. Agatha is an old woman who lives on the top floor of a high building.
 - iii) Karen Kitten. A girl who sings with a local band. The band often plays at the music club where Tony Tuff works.
 - iv) Danny Dreggs. Danny plays keyboards in Karen's band. He is also her new boyfriend.

Think of questions to ask the characters.

Andrew is a student who has run away from home and the main problem of the story is to find out where Andrew McStag is. During the show the audience will have the chance to help the detective and think of questions to ask some of the characters. Can you think of questions that the detective may want to ask these people...?

- i) Bernie – Andrew's best friend at school.
- ii) Tony Tuff, the man who takes the tickets at the club where Karen Kitten's band plays.
- iii) Agatha Goodbody, the old woman who lives on the top floor of a building in the town. (She tells the detective that she thinks she saw Andrew walking around in the town.)

NOTES AND ANSWERS FOR TEACHERS

Modal verbs – a presentation There is, of course, no need to go over this with your students if you are already using a better presentation from a published text book.

Practice exercise 1

Dog, Bat, Mole, Horse, Dolphin, Pig, Deer, Fish, Duck, Whale.

Here below are sets of sentences to describe four different animals from the list. The idea is that you should pause after each sentence to let the students make their deductions. This can be done as a whole-class exercise, or as a writing exercise. If you want to practice past tense modal verbs, just tell your students and start with something like 'This one is in the past, so, yesterday I saw an animal. It has a tail etc)

Animal 1

- iv) It has a tail.
- v) It lives in water.

vi) It doesn't make a sound.
(Conclusion: It must be a fish.)

Animal 2

v) It can be black.
vi) It doesn't see very well.
vii) It lives underground.
(Conclusion: It must be a mole.)

Animal 3

It has four legs.
It has a very good sense of smell.
It usually lives with people.
(Conclusion: It must be a dog.)

Animal 4

It doesn't need to live near water.
It has four legs.
It can live in a field.
It eats bark from trees.
(Conclusion: It must be a deer.)

Enjoy the show!