

Why is he late?

Inrique is always on time for class but today he is late. Suggest reasons using *must*, *might*, *could*, or *may*.



- 1 Is he still asleep? (might)
He might still be asleep.
- 2 Is he ill? (must)

- 3 Is he in the coffee bar? (might)

- 4 Does he have a doctor's appointment? (could)

- 5 Is he stuck in a traffic jam? (may)

- 6 Is his bus late? (might)

- 7 Does he want to miss the test? (must)

Rewrite the sentences in exercise 1 with *can't*. Then give a reason.

- 1 He can't still be asleep because he always gets up very early.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____

3 The continuous infinitive

! 1 The continuous infinitive is used after a modal verb of probability to express a possible activity in progress at the moment.
His office light's on. He must **be working** late.
It's only 9.10. They can't **be having** a break yet.

T 9.1 Complete the conversations with suitable verbs in the continuous infinitive.

- 1 A Do you know where Ben is?
B I'm not sure. He may be playing games on the computer.
- 2 A Where's Birgit?
B She's upstairs. She must _____ to music in her room.
A She's not in her room.
B Try the bathroom. She might _____ a shower.
- 3 A I can't find the thing that changes the TV channel.
B The remote control? Stand up. You could _____ on it.
- 4 A Have you seen the newspaper?
B I think James picked it up. He may _____ it.
- 5 A What's that noise?
B It sounds like an ambulance. They must _____ someone to hospital.
- 6 A Look over there! It's Kate and Alex.
B She can't _____ his hand. She doesn't like him.
A They must _____ out together. I don't believe it!
- 7 A What's happening outside?
B It sounds like workmen. They must _____ up the road outside.
A What for?
B I don't know. They could _____ a broken water pipe.