Unit 15 · Degrees of Probability

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 26

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Where is the water bottle?

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: how sure you may be follows the clues you have: *may / might* while several places are possible, *can't* once a place is ruled out, *must* only when one place is left; the same clue means something different when another is missing.

a. Models: *It **may** (might) **be** in the classroom, on the football ground or in the library.* (One place alone with *may*, such as *It may be on the football ground*, is fine too.)

b. **No, she is too sure.** At that point three places are still possible. *You always leave things there* makes the ground likely, not certain. She could say *It **may** (might) **be** on the football ground* or *It's probably on the football ground.* (The tempting answer is yes, because she gives a reason; but a habit isn't a clear clue.)

c. ***It can't be in the library.*** (The tempting answer is *It mustn't be in the library*: *mustn't* means *not allowed*.)

d. ***It must be on the football ground.*** **Must**, because the classroom and the library are both ruled out, so the ground is the only place left: we are almost sure. (*It may be on the football ground* is not wrong English, but it says less than the clues show.)

e. *It **can't** be in the classroom. It **may** (might) be on the football ground or in the library.* With the library not yet checked, two places are still possible, so not *must*.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. A sentence with *may* or *might* + *be* about a possible place.
✓ b. No: too sure, because other places are still possible (a habit isn't a clear clue).
✓ c. *It can't be in the library* (not *mustn't*).
✓ d. *It must be on the football ground.*
✓ d. *Must* because it is the only place left.
✓ e. *Can't* for the classroom and *may / might* for two places left.

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2 Two jobs for must, two jobs for may

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *must* gives a rule (Unit 10) or a deduction from a clue (this unit), and *may* gives permission (Unit 2) or says something is possible: the setting decides, a sentence can mean both, and the negatives part ways (*mustn't* forbids; the opposite of a deduction is *can't*).

a. 1. **a rule** (permission: you are allowed) · 2. **how sure** (possible) · 3. **a rule** (necessary) · 4. **how sure** (a clue: the look) · 5. **a rule** (not allowed) · 6. **how sure** (a clue: the queue)

b. Models. **A rule:** *The coach wants every player at practice by nine.* (Dawa has to be there.) **How sure:** *His bicycle is gone, and school starts at ten.* (We are almost sure he is there.) (Any sentence that makes one reading a rule or a duty and the other a clue.)

c. ***You can't be Diya's brother.*** (with a clue such as *You look nothing like her*). *Mustn't* means *not allowed*: *You mustn't be Diya's brother* would forbid him to be her brother, which makes no sense. The opposite of a *must* from a clue is *can't*.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1 to 3: rule, how sure, rule.
- ✓ a. 4 to 6: how sure, rule, how sure.
- ✓ b. A sentence that makes it a rule (has to be there).
- ✓ b. A sentence that makes it a clue (almost sure he is there).
- ✓ c. *You can't be Diya's brother.*
- ✓ c. *Mustn't* means not allowed, not almost sure it isn't true.

3 The thief in the dark

ANSWER HA · 5

Tests: a deduction is only as good as its clue; *must* for the only real possibility, *may / might* when there are others; *must have* and *might have* for what has already happened (*They must have left*).

a. Shining spots in the dark could be many things, so it wasn't the only possibility. Models: *That **may** be the fire, or it **might** be an animal's eyes.* (Another thing: a cat's or a dog's eyes, a candle, a lamp.) (The tempting answer just repeats the story: "because it was the cat". The point is that the thief couldn't know.)

b. Models. Sure: *Something **must** have attacked him.* · *He **must** be hurt.* Not sure: *It **might** have been an animal, not a witch.* · *There **may** be only animals in the house.*

c. **1 and 4 fit.** A dark, quiet house is a clue that the people inside may be asleep, or may have left. **2 and 3 don't:** they say the people inside are awake, which goes against the clues.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Too sure: the spots could be other things.
- ✓ a. A careful sentence with *may* or *might* naming another possibility.
- ✓ b. A true *must* (something attacked him; he is hurt).
- ✓ b. A fitting *may / might* (it might have been an animal).
- ✓ c. 1 and 4 fit; 2 and 3 don't.

4 Maybe, may be and the plain verb

ANSWER

Tests: *maybe* (one word) means *perhaps*; *may be* (two words) is *may* + the verb *be*, so it works only where the verb is *be*; after *may*, *might* and *likely to*, the plain verb; *can't*, not *mustn't*, for "almost sure it isn't".

a. 1. ***Maybe** the shop is closed today.* · *The shop **may be** closed today.* 2. ***Maybe** the bus will be late.* · *The bus **may be** late.*

b. *Knows* is not the verb *be*, so there is no *be* for *may* to go with. ***Rohan may know the answer.*** (The tempting answer is *Rohan may be knows the answer*.)

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c. Wrong: **1, 3, 4 and 6.** 1. *It may **rain** tomorrow.* 3. *The match is likely to **start** late.* 4. ***Maybe** the hall is booked for Saturday.* (or *The hall **may be** booked…*) 6. *…so she **can't** be out.* (or *she **must** be at home*). Sentences 2 and 5 are right: *might not* means *perhaps not*, and *must be tired* is a deduction from a clue. A · 5

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Both sentences with *Maybe*.
- ✓ a. Both with *may be*: *may be closed*, *may be late*.
- ✓ b. *Knows* isn't *be*: *Rohan may know the answer.*
- ✓ c. 1 and 3 corrected (*rain*, *start*).
- ✓ c. 4 and 6 corrected (*Maybe*, *can't*), 2 and 5 left alone.

5 Make your own clue puzzle

ANSWER HA · 4

Tests: building the chain of certainty yourself: each clue has to really rule a place out, so that *can't* and then *must* are earned.

A model: *Sapana's library card isn't in her pocket. This morning she was in the kitchen, the garden and the bus. It **may** be in any of them. · Clue 1: Her mother has just cleaned the kitchen and found nothing. **It can't be in the kitchen.** · Clue 2: Her brother raked the whole garden after she left and found nothing. **It must be on the bus.*** (Any puzzle whose clues truly rule places out.)

(The tempting slip is a clue that doesn't rule anything out, such as *She often loses things in the garden*, followed by *must*.)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ Three possible places and a fitting *may* or *might* sentence.
- ✓ A first clue that really rules one place out.
- ✓ A fitting *can't* sentence.
- ✓ A second clue that leaves one place, and a fitting *must* sentence.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	5	21	26

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