MAKING DEDUCTIONS

Go to the Cambridge Youtube channel and watch a video about these grammar structures.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjVcNegFJEU

Now study the table and the explanations below.

- MAY/COULD/MIGHT = PERHAPS
- MUST = I THINK/SUPPOSE, I STRONGLY BELIEVE
- CAN'T = I DON'T THINK, I DON'T SUPPOSE

PRESENT SIMPLE Perhaps he owns this place.	PRESENT INFINITIVE He may own this place.
PRESENT CONTINUOUS I suppose she is preparing for the exam.	PRESENT CONTINUOUS INFINITIVE She must be preparing for the exam.
FUTURE SIMPLE I don't think we'll get to school on time.	PRESENT INFINITIVE We can't get to school on time.
FUTURE CONTINUOUS Perhaps mum will be making dinner (when I get home.)	PRESENT CONTINUOUS INFINITIVE Mum may be making dinner.
PAST SIMPLE I don't think he worked very hard. (since he got such a bad mark.)	PERFECT INFINITIVE He can't have worked very hard.
PAST CONTINUOUS I'm sure he wasn't listening to the explanations.	PERFECT CONTINUOUS INFINITIVE He can't have been listening.
PRESENT PERFECT Perhaps he has lied to us.	PERFECT INFINITIVE He may have lied to us.
PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS I'm sure he has been lying all along.	PERFECT CONTINUOUS INFINITIVE He must have been lying all along.
PAST PERFECT Perhaps he had forgotten about our meeting.	PERFECT INFINITIVE He may have forgotten about our meeting.
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS I'm sure he hadn't been studying hard enough.	PERFECT CONTINUOUS INFINITIVE He can't have been studying hard enough.

Must and can't

- We use these modal verbs to make logical assumptions. This is when we are sure or almost sure about something because it is/seems logical.
You **must be** tired after this long exam. (I'm sure you are)
That **can't be** our teacher. She's away on holiday. (I'm sure it's not possible)

May, might and could

-These words all express uncertainty or possibility. Could is not used with not in this context.
They **may** visit us later today, I don't know.
I **might** see you later if I finish my work, but I'm not sure.
Mum **could** be working in the garden

Deductions in the past

Must have and **can't have**
-These are used to make logical assumptions about past actions.
He must have missed the bus again. (I am sure he did)
Jim **can't have said** such a thing. (I am sure he didn't)

May have, might have and **could have**
-These express possibility or uncertainty about past actions.
Jean **might have forgotten** about our meeting**.** (perhaps she did)
He **may not have received** the message. (perhaps he didn't)
You **could have fallen off** the tree!Why did you climb so high? (it was a possibility)

Try to use these modals verbs on your own. Choose a picture and describe it. Use modal verbs of deductions. Record yourself while talking. Listen to the recording and see if you've used the modals properly.

Go to Learn English – British Council for extra explanations. Do the tasks. Check your work.
https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/modals-deductions-about-the-present

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