



Answers

1. a) could
2. c) could
3. a) might
4. d) could
5. c) can't
6. b) could
7. b) could
8. a) might
9. d) could
10. a) can't
11. c) might
12. a) could
13. b) may
14. d) could
15. b) must
16. b) might
17. c) could
18. c) may
19. d) can't
20. d) could



Explanations

1. “could” (a)

'Could be' expresses a possibility — it's one of several possible places the cat might be. 'Must be' would show near-certainty.

2. “could” (c)

'Could be true' means it is possible, though the speaker has doubts. 'Must be true' would mean the speaker is almost certain.

3. “might” (a)

Both 'might' and 'could' work for possibility here. 'Might' is used when guessing based on evidence. 'Will' would be too certain.

4. “could” (d)

'Could be poisonous' warns about a dangerous possibility. The speaker is not sure, but wants to be cautious.

5. “can't” (c)

'Can't' here means he is not able to read — it's about ability, not possibility. A three-year-old does not have the ability to read.

6. “could” (b)

'Could be' expresses one possible explanation for why the light is off. There may be other explanations too.

7. “could” (b)

'Could be' expresses a possibility — the speaker is guessing who is at the door. 'I'm not sure' confirms it is an uncertain guess, not a strong deduction.

8. “might” (a)

'Might not' expresses a negative possibility about the future. The speaker thinks it is possible they won't get the job.

9. “could” (d)

'Could be dangerous' warns about a possibility. 'Some roads may have ice' shows uncertainty — not all roads are icy, so the danger is possible but not certain.

10. “can't” (a)

'Can't be' means it is impossible — the colour doesn't match, so we are certain it is not John's car. 'Might not' or 'may not' would only mean we are unsure, but the evidence is conclusive.

11. “might” (c)

'Might' shows both destinations are possible and no decision has been made yet.

12. “could” (a)

'Could belong' suggests one possible owner. The speaker is guessing — there could be other possibilities.

13. “may” (b)

'May be late' expresses a possibility. 'Some traffic' and 'hopefully not' both confirm this is uncertain — the speaker thinks it is possible but not certain.

14. “could” (d)

'Could be the right answer' shows the speaker thinks it is possible but has some doubt.

15. “must” (b)

'Must be' expresses a strong logical conclusion — with such long hours, it is almost certain she is exhausted.
'Might' or 'could' would show less certainty.

16. “might” (b)

'Might not be' expresses a possibility that the exam is not hard. The speaker is being optimistic but uncertain.

17. “could” (c)

'Could have a double l' means it is possible. The speaker is uncertain about the spelling.

18. “may” (c)

'May rain' expresses a weather possibility. 'Just in case' confirms it is uncertain — the speaker thinks rain is possible but not definite.

19. “can't” (d)

'Can't be from a different country' means it is impossible — the evidence (perfect French, confirmed French) rules out other countries.

20. “could” (d)

'Could be fully booked' expresses a possibility that the speaker wants to verify. 'Shall I call to check?' shows the speaker is uncertain.