

2.3

GRAMMAR

Speculating

I can use a variety of modal verbs to speculate about the past, the present and the future.

- 1 **SPEAKING** Look at the photo and the definition. In pairs, discuss what the people are doing and how this might relate to 'communities of practice'.

Communities of practice are groups of people who learn how to do something, or perfect a skill, by repeatedly doing that thing together. There are no leaders, formal teachers or students, just people enjoying a shared passion.



- 2 **1.21** Listen to a discussion about the activity in Exercise 1. Answer the questions in your notebook.
- What is the activity?
 - Are the speakers part of the community or observers?
 - What might be the pros and cons of learning from a community of practice versus from a teacher?
- 3 **1.21** Listen again. In your notebook, complete each structure in blue with one word.

Extract 1

B: The original group members ¹*may have been doing* it for years while the younger ones ²*have been taught* more recently. Some of these really young ones ³*just have joined* the group. See the guy in the white T-shirt – he ⁴*have been doing* it for a couple of years, I'd say.

Extract 2

A: Yes, I saw them recording one trick on their smartphones the other day. Why do they do that? I thought it ⁵*be* so they could learn from the more experienced members of the group ...

B: Well, yes, they ⁶*be doing* it so they can watch the clips afterwards and talk about the techniques. But the guy in the white T-shirt ⁷*watch* the film later too. If he does, it ⁸*certainly be* to help him improve his technique.

A: And how do you think he learnt that move to start with? I mean, he ⁹*have learnt* it by himself ...

B: Who knows? He ¹⁰*have been* part of another group and moved on to form his own tricking gang or he ¹¹*have learnt* the first tricks online.

- 4 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS and find examples in Exercise 3 where the speaker is:

- guessing about an action that's in progress.
- certain about a reason for doing sth in the present.
- certain about sth that started in the past and continues in the present.
- guessing about sth that happened in the past.
- certain that sth didn't happen in the past.
- guessing about sth in the future.
- certain about sth in the future.
- guessing about sth that happened in the past using the passive.
- guessing about an action continuing in the present.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Speculating

- You can use the modal verbs *must/may/might/could/can't* to speculate about the present and past:
modal verb + infinitive (present states)
*They **may not be** aware of the risks.*
modal verb + be + -ing form (events now in progress)
*They **may be filming** their tricks.*
modal verb + have + past participle (finished events in the past)
*Others **could have joined** their community.*
modal verb + have been + past participle (finished events in the passive voice in the past)
*The tyres **could have been brought** by someone's father.*
modal verb + have been + -ing form (events that started in the past and continue in the present)
*They **may have been doing** it for years.*
- You can use the modal verbs *may/might/could* + infinitive or *will/won't* + adverb to speculate about the future:
*He **could win** the competition next year.*
*He **may not join** the club.*
*She **will probably start** next week.*
*He **definitely won't come**.*

- 5 In your notebook, write the verb forms that complete the story correctly.

If you're in Brazil, you might ¹*want / have wanted* to join a samba school. But when you get there, you could ²*be / have been* surprised by what you see. I certainly was! In fact, the surprise must ³*show / have shown* very obviously on my face! If you have ever attended a dancing school in the UK, you will almost certainly ⁴*have been coached / have been coaching* by a qualified instructor, but here there was just a room full of people dancing, and I felt like they all must ⁵*be dancing / have been dancing* samba their whole lives. But then I noticed other people, like me, watching carefully, copying a few steps and moves and I realised they can't ⁶*be learning / have been learning* very long. They must ⁷*notice / have noticed* me, because they invited me to join them. Now, I'm one of the people helping newcomers who might ⁸*look / be looking* for a way in.

- 6 **SPEAKING** Discuss the questions in pairs.

- Have you ever taught anyone to do anything?
- How do you think they may have felt about the experience?