

SPECULATING

A2-B1 | Functional language for talking about possible situations

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases when you are thinking about a possibility, not a fact.

might

She **might** be at work.

could

It **could** rain later.

may

They **may** arrive soon.

maybe

Maybe he forgot the date.

perhaps

Perhaps the shop is closed.

I think ... might ...

I think it **might** be busy.

I don't think ... will ...

I don't think it **will** snow.

It's possible that ...

It's possible that they are lost.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one sentence about each situation. Try to use a range of phrases.

1. Your friend is late for class.

2. The sky is very dark this morning.

3. Nobody answers the phone at the office.

4. Your team cannot find an important file.

5. The cafe has no empty tables.

6. A bus is ten minutes late.

7. Your neighbour has a suitcase by the door.

8. The lights are on in a classroom, but you cannot see anyone inside.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3

Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to use a range of phrase patterns from page 1.

1. Maybe my friend missed the bus.

2. It could rain this morning.

3. Perhaps everyone is in a meeting.

4. Someone might have moved the file.

5. The cafe may be very popular today.

6. I think the bus might be stuck in traffic.

7. My neighbour could be going on a trip.

8. It is possible that a teacher is inside.
