

6B GRAMMAR modals of deduction: *might, can't, must*

a Circle the correct verb.

A Don't look now, but isn't that Karen Marshall over there?

B Where?

A At that table by the window.

B No, it ¹**must** / **can't** be. She went to live in Boston.

A But I'm sure it's Karen.

B Mmm, I suppose it ²**can** / **might** be her. But if it is, she looks much thinner than she used to.

A Well it ³**must** / **can't** be five years since we last saw her. Someone can change a lot in five years!

B You're right, it is Karen. But who do you think the man is? He ⁴**can't** / **might not** be her husband, can he?

A No, he ⁵**can't** / **might not** be. They broke up years ago and haven't spoken to each other since.

B It ⁶**can** / **may** be her new boyfriend – or her son!

A Shall we go over and find out?



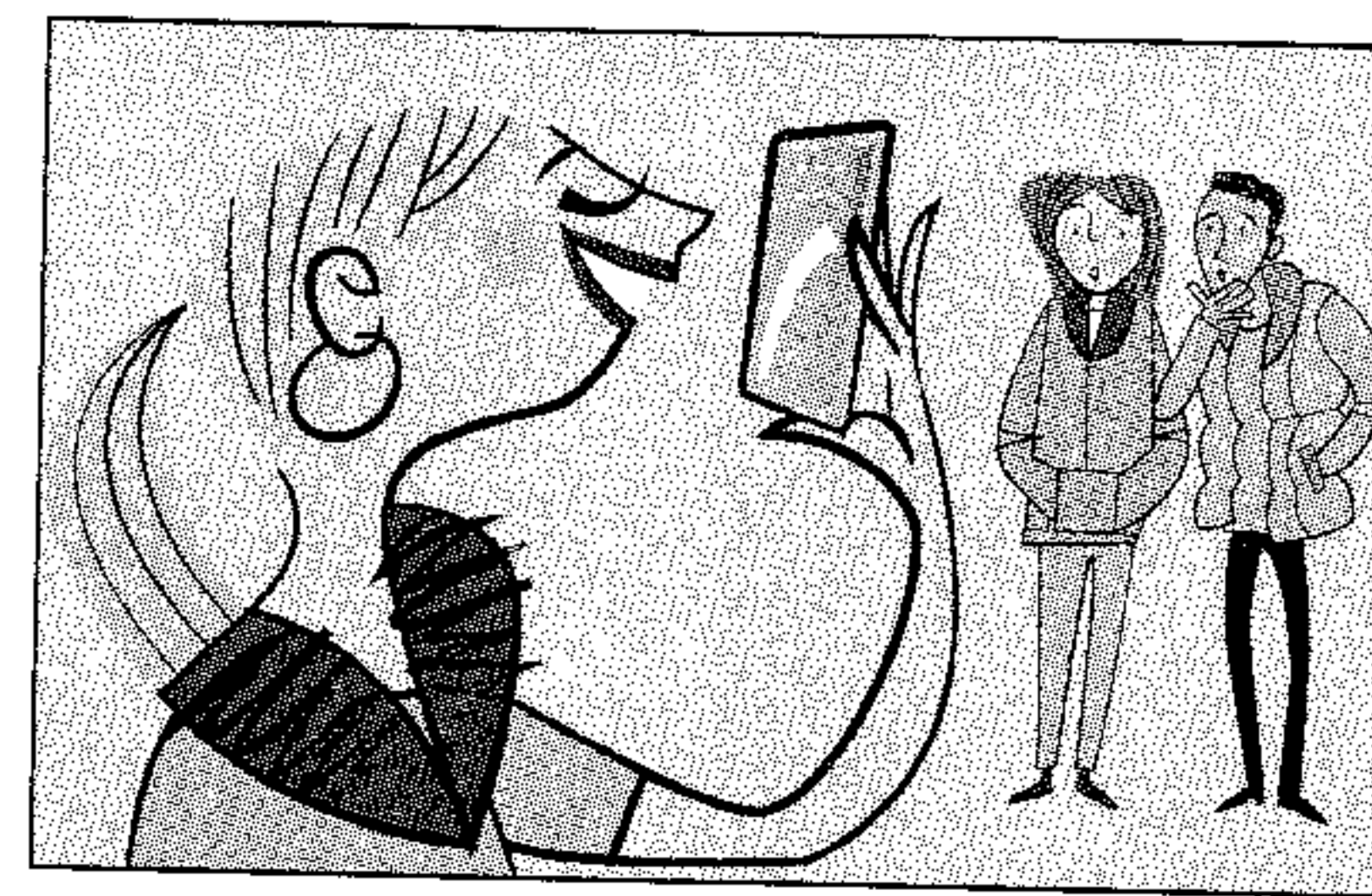
b Complete the conversations with *must, might, might not, or can't*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

1 A That's the second phone that Stacey's bought this year.

B She must have a lot of money then!

A She's a student, so she _____ be that rich.

B She _____ have generous parents then.



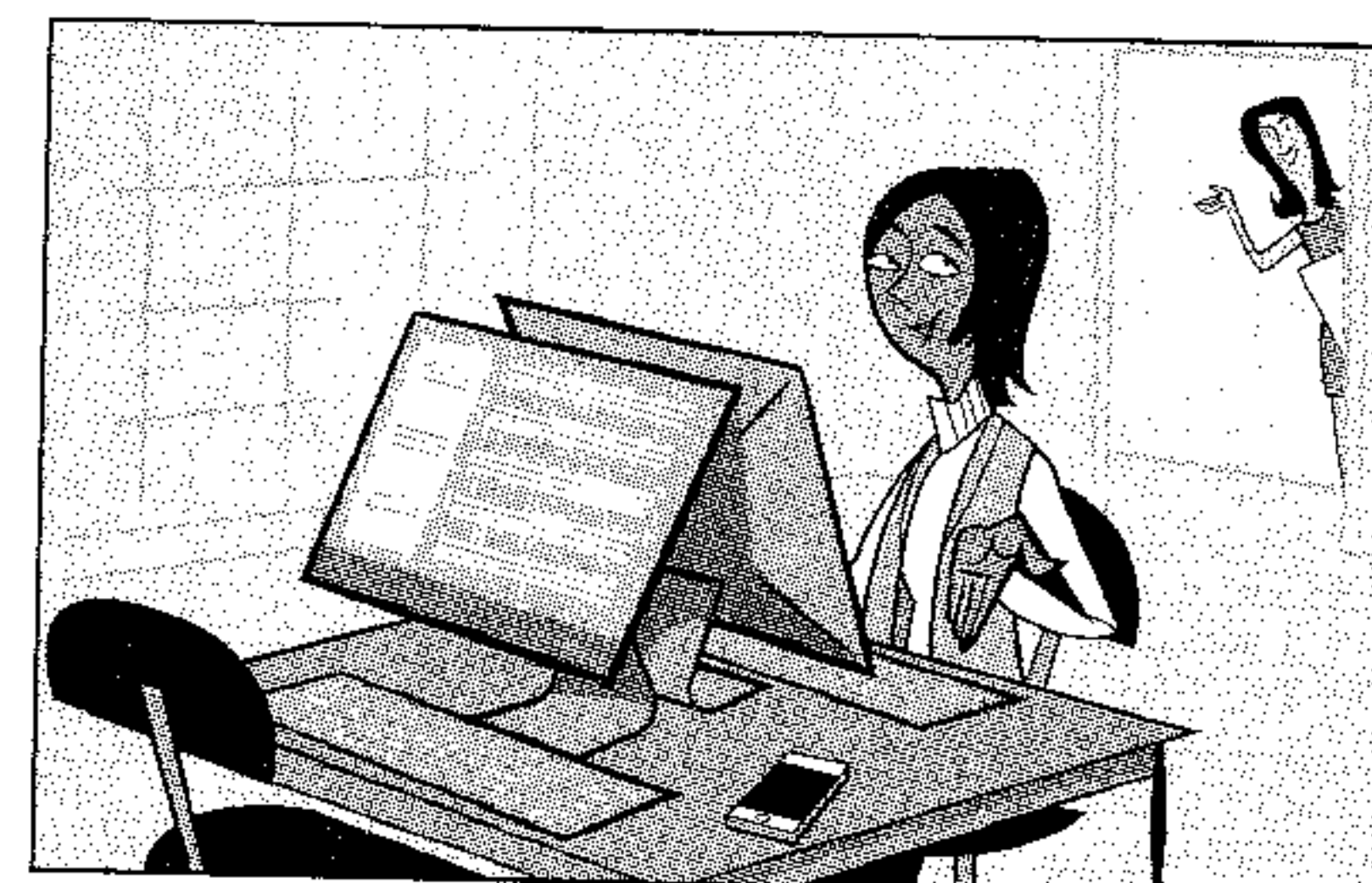
2 A Do you know where Charlie is?

B Well, he _____ be far away. His phone's on the desk.

A Any idea where he _____ be?

B He _____ be talking to the boss, or he _____ be in the photocopying room.

Do you want me to go and look for him?



3 A I have a missed call and I don't recognize the number.

B So, it _____ be from anyone you know.

A Ah, I know! It's that company who interviewed me last week.

They _____ be ringing to offer me the job. I'm not surprised. I did a really good interview.

B Well, don't be too confident, because they _____ be calling to say you didn't get the job.

A There's only one way to find out!



4 A This steak _____ be for me. It looks medium-rare, and I asked for a well-done steak.

B It _____ be mine, then. I ordered a medium-rare steak.



ACTIVATION

Practise the conversations with a partner.