

Episode 4: The Emperor's Tomb

1. Paul, Geeta and the Professor are about to go inside the Emperor's tomb – a place which has remained sealed since the Emperor's death, thousands of years ago. Imagine what the Emperor's tomb is like and write a list of what you think is inside it.
2. Listen to Episode 4 <https://soundcloud.com/cambridge-english/virtually-anywhere-episode-4>. What are the things that Paul, Geeta and the Professor find in the tomb? How many did you get right?

Key: a chinese musical instrument - pots - booby traps (a crossbow) - skeletons – treasure - rivers of liquid mercury.

A crossbow is a powerful weapon that shoots a short arrow.

3. Read these sentences where Geeta, Paul and the Professor speculate about the tomb and what it contains. Then practise saying them. Not all of these sentences are in the episode. Listen again, and tick the sentences you hear.
 - a. It must have been a trap to protect the tomb from, er ...
 - b. The tomb could have been sealed with people inside.
 - c. Apparently there are booby traps.
 - d. We can probably expect to find a few skeletons.
 - e. The Emperor must have been so rich.
 - f. It might be the case that the Emperor was buried with his pets.
 - g. Qin Shi Huang's tomb is thought to be surrounded by rivers of liquid mercury.
 - h. The Emperor can't be here!

Key: sentences a, c, d, e and g are contained in the episode.

4. Classify the expressions above into the table below:

You are sure that this is true	You are not sure if this is true or false	You are sure that this is not true

Key: You are sure that this is true: a, c, e - You are not sure if this is true or false: b, d, f, g - You are sure that this is not true: h.

Language focus: some of the above sentences are in the past and some are in the present. The sentences in the past contain a modal verb *must, could, might etc.* plus *have and past participle*. The sentences in the present do not contain *have and past participle*.

Speculating about the present:

Subject + modal verb + infinitive without to

e.g.

He **might be** French (because he speaks French) = *possibly he is French*

He **can't work** in London (because he lives so far away from London) = *I am sure he does not work in London.*

He **must be** hungry (because he did not have any breakfast) = *I am sure he is hungry*

Speculating about the past:

Subject + modal verb + have + past participle

e.g.

She **might have lived** in France (in the past) (because she speaks French, but not very well) = *possibly she lived in France.*

She **can't have lived** in London (in the past) (because she does not know anything about London) = *I am sure she did not live in London (in the past)*

She **must have been** to Paris (in the past) (because I have seen a photo of her standing in front of the Eiffel Tower) = *I am sure she went to Paris (in the past).*

There are also other ways to speculate: in this lesson, students use *apparently, it is thought that* and *possibly*.

5. Have more practice with this by doing the online activity at

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/val004-virtually-anywhere-episode-4> (gli esercizi si trovano cliccando nell'ultimo riquadro della pagina, sotto "Download the Lesson Plan for episode 4").