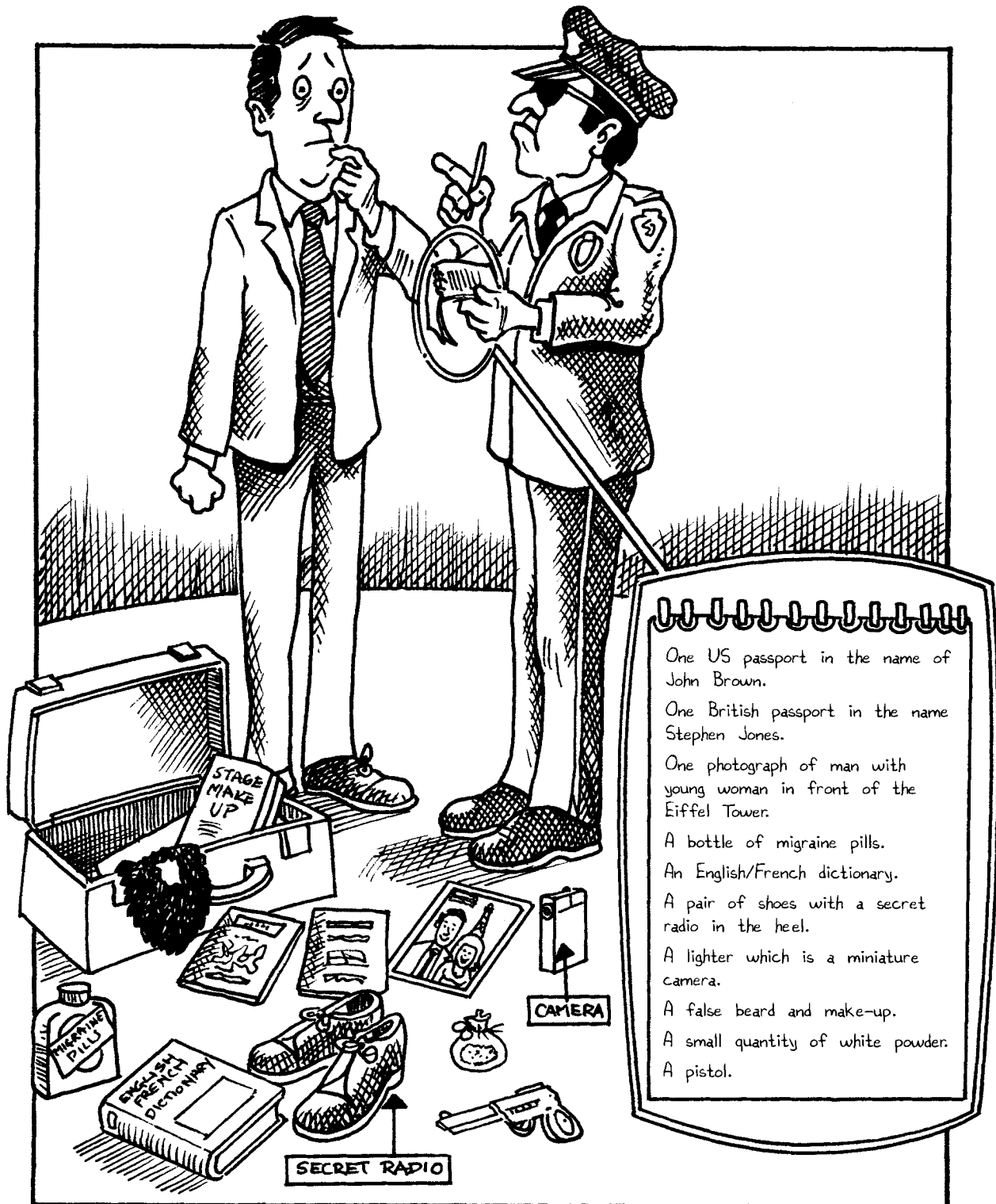


# The man who lost his memory



Unit 8A



Teacher's Notes

# The man who lost his memory

## Interaction

Group work

## Aim

To practice modal verbs of deduction.

## Time

20–25 minutes

## Skills

Speaking  
Listening

## Grammar and functions

Modal verbs of deduction (present tense)

## Vocabulary

Personal possessions

## Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

## Procedure

- 1 Give each student a copy of the worksheet.
- 2 Explain that the police have found a man in his 40s who appears to have lost his memory. The man is well-dressed and he has a suitcase with him. The articles in the suitcase are on the worksheet. The students are to use the contents of the suitcase to make deductions about the man.
- 3 To demonstrate the activity, ask students to look at the bottle of migraine pills on the worksheet and tell you what this suggests about the man. Encourage them to use *may / might / must / could / can't* and write their deductions, e.g. *He must have bad headaches.*
- 4 Put students in groups of four or five and tell them to discuss the mystery and make as many deductions about the man as they can.
- 5 Move around the classroom listening. Be available to help with vocabulary if necessary.
- 6 After ten minutes, ask one person from each group to tell the class what their group thinks about the man.

## Option

This activity could be used as the basis for a writing task. Have students write a paragraph about the man, who he is and what he does, based on the objects in his suitcase.

## Additional ideas

If you change the scenario to the police finding a **dead** man, this can become an exercise for past modals. Then you could encourage students to use *may / might / must / could / can't have been* in their sentences, e.g. look at the dictionary and say: *He might have been learning French.*