

MODALS

The following verbs are modals auxiliaries:

CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT, SHALL, SHOULD, WILL, WOULD, MUST, NEED

- There's no –s ending in the third person singular
- Questions and negatives are formed without **do**
- They are followed by the infinitive without **to** (except ought)
- They have no infinitive or participle forms. Other verbs must be used

EXAMPLES

He said he would be able to get home before ten= **can**

You need to know how to do accounts =**can**

Will you let me borrow your car? =**may**

We were allowed to buy 200 duty free cigarettes =**may**

She had to leave by midnight = **must**

If you miss the bus, you'll have to walk home =**must**

CAN	EXAMPLES
To express ability(=to be able to, know how to)	Can you speak Spanish?
To express permission (=be allowed to)	Can I take photos in the museum?
To make deductions (negative for statements)	He can't be the same person They can't have sold the painting
To make offers	Can I buy you a drink?
To make requests	Can you tell me how long the course lasts?

COULD	EXAMPLES
To express ability in the past	He could read when he was two
To ask permission(more formal than can)	Could I make a phone call?
To express possibility	It could be worth a lot of money You could have been killed
To give advice or make suggestions	You could talk to your boss about the problem

FOR PARTICULAR ABILITY IN THE PAST, **WAS ABLE TO** OR **MANAGED TO** ARE USED

*WERE YOU ABLE TO GET THE TICKETS?

*DID YOU MANAGE TO GET THE TICKETS?

COULD FOR REQUESTS

*COULD YOU GET THE TICKETS?

MAY	EXAMPLES
To express permission (more formal than can)	May I sit down?
To express possibility	He might lose his job The painting might have

MIGHT	EXAMPLES
To express permission(very formal)	Might I turn on the television?
To express remote possibility	He might lose his job He might have dropped

SHALL	EXAMPLES
To make offers	Shall I do the washing up?
To make suggestions	Shall we meet again tomorrow?

SHOULD	EXAMPLES
To give advice	You shouldn't worry so much
To express obligation or criticism	Everyone should see a dentist regularly He shouldn't have said that horrible thing
In type 1 conditional	If you should see James, ask him to phone me
In place of would in the first person	I shouldn't say anything if I were you

OUGHT TO	EXAMPLES
To give advice	You ought to smoke less
To express obligation or criticism	He ought to visit his parents more often He ought to have worn a tie

WILL	EXAMPLES
In the future simple	I think I'll go to England soon
To express willingness: offers and requests	If you'll clear the table, I'll do the washing up Will you help me carry the luggage?

WOULD	EXAMPLES
In conditional sentences	If I saw a ghost, I would scream
To express willingness, requests(formal)	Would you close the window , please? I should be grateful if you would send me an application form
To describe repeated actions in the past	When we came out of the cinema , we would buy fish and chips to eat on the way home

MUST	EXAMPLES
To express obligation or necessity(=have to, need to)	We must wear uniform at school
To make deductions (positive for statement)	She must be eighteen

***MUSTN'T** =strong obligation: you mustn't lean out of the window.

*for absence of obligation or necessity we use **DON'T HAVE TO, DON'T NEED TO, NEEDN'T**: As tomorrow is Sunday I don't have to/don't need to /needn't get up early

When talking about the past: I **NEEDN'T HAVE BOOKED** a table because the restaurant was almost empty=it wasn't necessary but I did

He **DIDN'T NEED TO** look up the number because he knew it by heart=it wasn't necessary so he didn't

EXERCISES

USING THE CORRECT FORM OF THE MODAL VERB IN CAPITALS REWRITE THE SENTENCES SO THAT THE MEANING IS ALMOST IDENTICAL

You are not allowed to walk on the grass

_____MAY

Please stop talking

_____COULD

Do you have to leave soon?

_____MUST

I don't believe it's ten o'clock

_____CAN

You'd better call the police

_____SHOULD

Perhaps he lost the address

_____MIGHT

Why don't you go to the library?

_____COULD

Please sit down

_____WILL

He apologised, but it wasn't necessary

_____NEED

I was wrong to say it was your fault

_____SHOULD

He wasn't able to lift the piano

_____COULD

It's forbidden to enter the building

_____CAN

It's just possible that the phone is out of order

_____MIGHT

He used to smoke his pipe in the evenings

_____WOULD

She doesn't work hard enough

_____OUGHT

We didn't call the doctor because it wasn't necessary

_____NEED

Do you know how to make an omelette?

_____CAN

Why don't we go for a walk?

_____SHALL

Perhaps there has been an accident

_____COULD

You're not allowed to look

_____MUST

It's possible that she's visiting her parents

_____MAY

You can tell he's making a lot of money

_____MUST

Which on the words in the box will fit the sentences?
Often there is more than one possibility.

Will should can ought to could must may have to might

1. You _____ get your hair cut. It's much too long.
2. _____ I ask you a questions?
3. Young children _____ be carried on this escalator.
4. You _____ never get a seat on this train. It's always packed.
5. I _____ be studying Mandarin Chinese next year.
6. I _____ already speak five languages fluently.
7. You'll _____ work much harder if you want to pass.
8. It's Saturday night. There _____ be something good on TV.
9. You _____ leave your valuables in the hotel safe.
10. You _____ be over 1m 60 cm tall to be an air hostess.

Underline the correct answer.

1. You *mustn't/shouldn't* have any problems with Jack. He's such a good baby.
2. You *don't have to/mustn't* use cream in this sauce, but it makes it much tastier.
3. I *couldn't/wouldn't* watch my favourite TV programme because Sue rang up for a long chat.
4. Timmy's so stubborn. He just *can't/won't* do what he' told.
5. I'm afraid *Cannot/may* not come to your wedding as I'm on holiday in Australia.
6. I was *able to/ could* get 10% of the marked price by paying in cash.
7. I *should have gone/had to go* to visit Uncle Tom in hospital after work, but I was too tired.
8. You *don't have to/mustn't* say a word about this to your mother. It's a surprise.

Deductions about the present and past

Complete the sentences, putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form

1. "I wonder how the thief got into our apartment."
"He _____ (could/use) the fire escape or he _____ (might/climb up) that tree."
2. "I saw Harry waving someone off in a taxi." "That _____ (would/be) is cousin from Australia."
3. "Bill told me that he'd spent L50, 000 on a birthday present for is girlfriend, but he _____ (may/joke). He _____ (can't/spend) that much."
"I think you _____ (must/mishear) him."
4. "It's five past eleven. Ken and Cathy's plane _____ (should/touch down) in Kennedy Airport right now .
"Your watch _____ (must/be) slow. It's nearly half past.
Their plane _____ already _____ (will/land) ."
5. "Bring very warm clothes. It _____ (could/snow) when we arrive.
It _____ (can/snow) in the mountains even in summer.?"
6. What are all those people doing with those lights and cameras? They _____ (must/make) a film

MODALS REWRITE

1. It's a good idea to take warm clothes with you if you go climbing
2. It's necessary for deep sea divers to use oxygen tanks
3. It is prohibited to surf here, it's dangerous
4. Alex has the ability to run marathon
5. It's not a good idea to do bare jumping if you are scared of heights
6. It's unnecessary for you to come if you don't want to
7. Karen had the ability to swim from an early age
8. It wasn't a good idea for you to walk home late last night
9. It was unnecessary for Gary to clean the house
10. I didn't have the ability to drive until I had lessons last year
11. It was unnecessary for Ann to go to the lecture this morning
12. It's possible that they missed the plane
13. I'm sure that Jack didn't win the race, he's very unfit
14. Perhaps you left your wallet at home
15. I'm certain that he hurt himself when he fell
16. It's impossible that you saw Helen. She's in Paris
17. I'm sure that you dropped your ticket
18. I'm sure that they didn't like the music. They didn't dance all night
19. I'm sure the cat is in the flat somewhere
20. Maybe Mark left his book on the desk
21. I'm certain that they have gone home early
22. Perhaps she's the new dance teacher
23. I'm sure that Jim hasn't got the front door key
24. It's impossible that you spent all the money yesterday
25. It's possible that they over slept
26. I'm certain that Dave passed his exam
27. If you want my advice, get a good lawyer
28. A university degree isn't necessary for that job
29. Perhaps my father will pick you up
30. It is necessary to make an appointment at the hairdresser's
31. Eating is forbidden in class
32. The boss allows the workers to have one afternoon free
33. Don't take the record without my permission
34. She hasn't phoned. Perhaps she is abroad
35. Perhaps Mike will be too busy to see us
36. I suggest you go and see the doctor
37. It was silly of Bob to be rude to his teacher
38. Maybe the concert was cancelled because nobody bought the tickets
39. The lawyer was expected to win the case, but he didn't
40. Their plane probably crashed over the jungle
41. Jill is not playing. I'm sure she is tired
42. Pam passed the exam but she cheated

43. We expected him to pass his exam but he didn't
44. There is no possibility that Mark was involved in the crime
45. I'm sure that Helen feels really lonely
46. It would be a very good idea if Harry took a holiday
47. I'm sure that Brenda isn't over 30
48. Do I need a different driving licence for a motorbike?
49. What would you advise me to do?
50. Mary knows how to stand on her head
51. You needn't come with me if you don't want to
52. It's possible for anyone to break into this house
53. The dentist will see you again soon. I don't think he'll be long
54. It was a mistake to park outside the police station
55. It was unnecessary for you to clean the floor
56. I'm sure that Liz hasn't met Harry before
57. Ann possibly hasn't left yet
58. I'm sure they haven't eaten all the food, it's not possible
59. Jack is supposed to have arrived an hour ago
60. Perhaps Pam and Tim decided not to come

REWRITE USING THE MODAL IN BRACKETS

- I expect we will get there by 500 if there isn't too much traffic (SHOULD)
 Is it necessary for me to bring my passport? (HAVE)
 I'm sure the cat is in somewhere in the house (MUST)
 An aerial is not required with this radio (HAVE)
 I'm sure that Jim isn't the thief (CAN'T)
 All students should report to the main hall at 900 (HAVE)
 I thought you would be the answer (OUGHT)

REWRITE USING THE CORRECT FORM OF THESE MODALS

CAN-----COULD-----MUST-----HAVE TO-----SHOULD

- You aren't allowed to park here
- It would be a good idea if Harry took a holiday
- I'm sure that Brenda is over 30
- Do I need a different driving licence?
- What would you advise me to do?
- Mary knows how to stand on her head
- You needn't come with me if you don't want to
- It's possible for everyone to break into this house

MIGHT-----MIGHT NOT-----MUST-----MUSTN'T-----CAN-----CAN'T

- She says she's stuck in the traffic and shebe late
 You reallystart spending more time on your work
 Tell Peter he.....stay the night if he wants
 That's a really stupid idea, yoube serious
 Yourealise it, but this is very important to me
 Don't be silly, youexpect me to believe you
 He learnt to fly!!! Yoube joking
 Bill cooked the lunch so youexpect anything special

MIGHT HAVE----MUST HAVE----CAN'T HAVE

It's possible that they missed the bus

I'm sure that Jack didn't win the race

Perhaps you left the wallet at home

I'm certain that he hurt himself when he fell

It's impossible that you saw Helen at the party

I'm sure that you dropped your ticket

Maybe Chris decided not to come

I'm sure that they didn't like the music, they didn't dance

There's a possibility that Jake has turned off his mobile

I'm sure that David wasn't at the library this morning

It's impossible that you saw Ann with Rachel's boyfriend
