

Modal Auxiliary Verbs

I. Choose the best modality of the following sentences.

1. Look at Fred! He must be drunk.
a. Obligation b. Prohibition c. certainty
2. We must study because there is an exam tomorrow.
a. Obligation b. Prohibition c. certainty
3. May I use your pen for a minute?
a. Suggestion b. Permission c. Request
4. Although it was foggy, we could see the village in the distance.
a. Ability b. Possibility c. necessity
5. You mustn't smoke in this room. Look at the sign.
a. Prohibition b. Obligation c. certainty
6. You look tired. You should go to bed.
a. Permission b. Suggestion c. Possibility
7. You really have to work harder if you want to pass the examination.
a. Suggestion b. certainty c. necessity
8. Can you speak any foreign languages?
a. Possibility b. ability c. permission
9. Be careful of that dog. It might bite you.
a. Probability b. prohibition c. suggestion
10. Would you please be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.
a. Advice b. probability c. request

II. Fill in the with the most suitable auxiliary verbs

1. The phone rang but I didn't hear it. I have been asleep. (certainty)
a. May b. must c. could d. would
2. Jane walked past me without speaking. She have seen me. (certainty)
a. Can't b. may c. would d. must
3. I'm not sure where Tim is. He be in his office. (possibility)
a. Can b. might c. could d. should
4. You look so tired. You go to bed right now. (advice)
a. Must b. should c. may d. ought to
5. Excuse me, ... you tell me how to get to the airport? (request)
a. Can't b. can c. could d. will
6. She spoke in a very low voice, but I understand her. (ability)
a. Can b. could c. can't d. would
7. you like a cup of coffee or tea? I can make you one. (offer)
a. Could b. may c. should d. would
8. Excuse me sir, ... I go out for a minute, please? (permission)
a. May b. might c. could d. would
9. I don't want anyone to know. You tell any one. (prohibition)
a. Must b. have to c. mustn't d. don't have to
10. you mind if I used your laptop for an hour? (permission)
a. May b. would c. could d. will