

MODALS

Grammar exercises

3.1 Choose the correct verb.

- 1 Adult ladybirds may / might be black, red or yellow.
- 2 We can / 'll be able to get to the airport in 20 minutes when the new line is finished next year.
- 3 I left home because I wasn't able to / can't find a job there.
- 4 A: I can't find my purse anywhere.
B: May / Could you have left it in the restaurant?
- 5 Not so long ago, more than 20 species of fish could / were able to be found in this river.
- 6 A: Apparently, there's been an accident in the High Street.
B: That might / is able to explain why the bus is taking so long.
- 7 A: Lena says she'll definitely pay the money back.
B: I wish I was able to / could trust her.
- 8 This camera is a bit cheaper than the other one, but it mightn't / can't be as good, of course.

3.2 Amir is talking to Martha just before and after a job interview. Choose the correct verb.

Before the interview

A: What time (1) have you got to / must you be there by?

M: 10.30.

A: You (2) must / have to / have got to be really nervous.

M: Terrified! But it doesn't matter, I know I won't get the job.

A: You (3) haven't got to / mustn't / can't be sure of that. You've got just the right experience and qualifications.

M: But I feel tense. I'm worried I (4) can't / couldn't / mightn't make a good impression in the interview.

A: I'm sure you'll be okay.

After the interview

M: I got it!

A: Congratulations! What (5) had you got to / must you / did you have to do?

M: Well, mainly I (6) had got to / had to / must tell them why I wanted to work there.

A: And does the job sound good?

M: Fantastic. I'll (7) have to / must / have got to do a lot of travelling.

A: Well that (8) oughtn't to / shouldn't / mustn't be a problem for you.

M: No, and I may (9) must / have to / have got to spend some time in Barcelona.

A: Well, I think we should certainly go out for a meal to celebrate.

M: Great idea.

3.3 Choose the correct sentence ending. Sometimes both are possible.

- 1 I have to get up early tomorrow, so I ...
a mustn't be too late going to bed tonight.
b don't need to be too late going to bed tonight.
- 2 When we got to the station, we found that the train was half an hour late, so we ...
a didn't need to rush after all.
b needn't have rushed after all.
- 3 The meeting will be quite informal, so you ...
a don't need to wear a suit.
b don't have to wear a suit.
- 4 Fortunately, he wasn't badly hurt in the accident, so he ...
a needn't go to hospital.
b didn't need to go to hospital.
- 5 Gwen has lost a lot of weight during her illness, so you ...
a needn't look surprised when you see her again.
b mustn't look surprised when you see her again.
- 6 The tennis courts are open to the public, so you ...
a needn't be a member of the club to play here.
b mustn't be a member of the club to play here.
- 7 The house was in good condition when I bought it, so I ...
a didn't need to decorate before I moved in.
b didn't have to decorate before I moved in.
- 8 As it turned out, the exam was quite easy, so I ...
a didn't have to spend all that time revising.
b needn't have spent all that time revising.