TOEFL PRACTICE.

Name: _____

TOPIC: MODAL VERBS

The Golden Rule: Base Form Only

The most common trap on the ITP is following a modal with an infinitive (*to go*), a gerund (*going*), or a conjugated verb (*goes*). **Rule:** A modal is **always** followed by the **base form** of the verb (no "to," no "-s," no "-ed").

- **Incorrect:** *She can to swim. / He must goes.*
- **Correct:** *She* ***can swim****. / He* ***must go****.*

Categorizing Modals by "Strength"

The TOEFL ITP often tests your ability to distinguish the degree of certainty or obligation.

Category	Modals	ITP Context
Strong Obligation	**Must**	Used for requirements or "near-certain" deductions.
Advice/Expectation	**Should**	Used for suggestions or things that are "likely" to happen.
Possibility	**May / Might / Could**	Used for things that are possible but not guaranteed.
Ability/Permission	**Can / Could**	*Can* is present ability; *Could* is past ability.

Past Modals (The "Have" Rule)To express these concepts in the past, the TOEFL uses Modal + Have + Past Participle**. This is a high-frequency structure in the Written Expression (error identification) part of the test.**

- **Should have + [v3]:** A regret or a missed opportunity (It didn't happen, but it was a good idea).
- **Must have + [v3]:** A logical conclusion about the past (I'm almost sure it happened).
- **May/Might have + [v3]:** A guess about the past.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. Common ITP Traps to Watch For

1. **Double Modals:** You cannot use two modals together.
    - *Incorrect:* "He **will can** go."
    - *Correct:* "He **will be able to** go."
2. **The "To" Inclusion:** Look for the word "to" hiding after a modal.
    - *Incorrect:* "They **might to** arrive late."
3. **Subject-Verb Agreement:** Modals **never** change their form. There is no "cans," "musts," or "shoulds" for third-person singular.
    - *Incorrect:* "The machine **mays** fail."

Expert Tip for the Structure Section:

If you see a blank space followed by a verb in its base form (e.g., _____ study), check the options for a Modal. If you see an underlined Modal, check the verb following it immediately—if it has an *-ing*, *-ed*, or *to*, you've found your error!

Which of these modals do you find most confusing when trying to identify errors in a sentence?

I. Select the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1. Pregnant women who suffer from anemia _____ supplements to raise the level of iron in their blood.

a) must to give **b) must be given** **c) given**

2. The study indicates that we _____ increase coverage of supplementation.
should try to

a) try to **b) must to try to** **c) should try to**

3. The authors noted that their results _____ pregnant women in other low- and middle-income countries.

a) might apply to **b) might to apply to** **c) apply**

4. The effect on birth weight _____ depending on the prevalence of iron deficiency.

a) can vary **b) can to vary** **c) will to vary**

5. A new, low-cost tool _____ developing-world cities control pollution that kills millions each year.

a) may to help **b) may help** **c) may have to help**

6. What are some of the best practices that health and emergency responders _____ in mind when using social media?

a) should to keep **b) should keep** **c) will to keep**

7. I _____ rather listen to country music than to jazz.

a) should **b) will** **c) would**

8. Joan was absent from school today. She _____ sick.

a) could be **b) can be** **c) could to be**

9. _____ you mind if my sister joined us for lunch?

a) May **b) Should** **c) Would**

10. George takes tennis lessons. He _____ play tennis.

a) can **b) may** **c) might**

LIVEWORKSHEETS