MODAL VERBS – can, must, may, might, have to, should

English Grammar Practice

Modal verb	Use	Example
must	Strong obligation	You must wear a seatbelt.
have to	Obligation or rules	I have to get up early.
mustn't	Prohibition	You mustn't smoke here.
don't have to	No obligation	You don't have to come.
should / shouldn't	Advice	You should exercise more.
can / could	Ability or permission	She can speak French.
may / might / could	Possibility	It might rain later.
must	Logical deduction	He must be tired.
can't	Negative deduction	That can't be true!

Exercise 1 – Choose the correct answer

Circle the correct modal verb.

1. You **mustn't / don't have to** use your phone during the exam. It's forbidden.
2. I'm not sure, but Sarah **must / might** come to the party.
3. You look exhausted. You **should / can** get some rest.
4. When I was five, I **can / could** swim very well.
5. Students **must / might** bring their textbooks to every lesson. It's a school rule.
6. It's Sunday tomorrow, so I **mustn't / don't have to** get up early.
7. He has been studying all night. He **must / can't** be tired.
8. You **shouldn't / don't have to** eat so much junk food. It's unhealthy.

Exercise 2 – Complete the sentences

Use the correct modal verb from the box. You can use each expression more than once.

must – mustn't – should – shouldn't – might – can't – don't have to

1. You _____ drive so fast. It's dangerous.

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2. We _____ forget to buy a birthday present for Mum.
3. Look at those dark clouds! It _____ rain.
4. You _____ pay for the museum. Entrance is free today.
5. She _____ be at home. I just saw her at the supermarket.
6. If you want to improve your English, you _____ practise every day.
7. Visitors _____ feed the animals at the zoo. It's prohibited.
8. Tom has a very high temperature. He _____ see a doctor.

Exercise 3 – Rewrite the sentences

Use the modal verb in brackets. Do not change the meaning.

1. It is necessary for students to do their homework. (**have to**)

2. It isn't necessary to wear a uniform at our school. (**don't have to**)

3. I advise you to drink more water. (**should**)

4. Perhaps Emma is at the library. (**might**)

5. It is forbidden to park here. (**mustn't**)

6. I'm sure this isn't Jack's jacket. It's too small. (**can't**)

Exercise 4 – Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one mistake.

1. You must to finish your homework tonight.

_____

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2. She doesn't can speak German.

_____

3. We don't must go to school on Sundays.

_____

4. He mights arrive late.

_____

5. You shouldn't to eat so many sweets.

_____

6. When I was younger, I can run very fast.

_____

Exercise 5 – Everyday situations

Complete each sentence with an appropriate modal verb or modal expression.

1. Your friend has a headache.
   You _____.

2. You see a sign saying "No Photography".
   You _____.

3. Your friend asks whether it will snow tomorrow. You are not sure.
   It _____.

4. Your little brother wants to drive a car, but he is only 12.
   You _____.

5. Your school trip is free.
   We _____.

6. Your friend has an important exam tomorrow.
   You _____.

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