

GRAMMAR

Modals and Modal Perfects

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1 Choose ONE or TWO correct modals in each sentence.

- I live on the 50th floor, so I **can't** / **mustn't** / **am not able to** hear the street noise.
- Parking's going to be a problem. We **ought to** / **should** / **would** arrive early in order to find a space.
- The event is free. Nobody **has to** / **could** / **needs to** pay.
- Would** / **May** / **Could** you tell me where the community garden is?
- I'm not sure, but the supermarket **might** / **can** / **may** be open round the clock.
- There's no such thing as a drone that carries people. That **must** / **has to** / **should** be a joke.
- We **didn't have to** / **needn't** / **couldn't** see much because people were standing in front of us.
- Judy fixed my phone, so I'm sure she **must** / **can** / **ought to** repair yours, too.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the affirmative or negative form of the modals in brackets.

- It's not a good idea to walk alone in the alley. (should)
You
- It's not certain that the mayor will attend the meeting. (might)
The mayor
- I've got no choice but to commute by train. (must)
I
- They aren't available to help us today. (can)
They
- There's no need to bring anything. (have to)
You
- Do you mind if I leave my bicycle here? (may)
..... I ?

3 Complete the dialogue with the words in brackets. Use modal perfects.

- Kate:** Have you heard? They're going to build a new road through the town.
- Joe:** The council ¹ (must / decide) that's the best way to solve the traffic jams.
- Kate:** I think they ² (should / think of) other solutions.
- Joe:** Like what?
- Kate:** Well, in my opinion, the mayor ³ (ought to / improve) public transport years ago.
- Joe:** You're right. Actually, there are lots of things they ⁴ (could / do) – like introducing bicycle lanes.
- Kate:** Yeah. Anyway, they ⁵ (shouldn't / take) the decision without a public vote. So ... are you coming to the demonstration?
- Joe:** Sorry, I'm going to the dentist. I ⁶ (would / cancel), but my tooth is really hurting me.
- Kate:** Oh, well, next time!

4 Complete the sentences in a logical way. Use the verbs in brackets and a modal perfect.

- I didn't realise there would be so much traffic. We (leave) earlier.
- It's possible he turned off his phone. He (not get) your text yet.
- She fell off her bike, but luckily she's fine. She (hurt) herself.
- It's a pity I didn't know you were interested in urban planning. I (invite) you to the lecture.
- Oh, no! The guard is locking the station! We (miss) the last train home!



5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Add a suitable affirmative or negative modal or modal perfect.

- 1 According to law, the city (give) permission for all new buildings. We aren't allowed to start construction until that happens.
- 2 I (pay) the fine on time. Now it's going to be double the amount.
- 3 I think I know you. We (met) before.
- 4 I heard the mayor is coming next week, but unfortunately I (attend) the meeting.
- 5 They (hold) the concert in the park, but it was raining.
- 6 He (say) that. He's never been rude to anyone.

6 Write what you would say in each situation. Use a suitable modal or modal perfect.

- 1 You regret not revising for an exam.
I should have revised for the exam.
- 2 You are certain that a friend's bracelet is expensive.
.....
- 3 You tell a friend that you never had the ability to ice-skate.
.....
- 4 There's a possibility that you left your jacket at school.
.....
- 5 You tell your mum that it's not necessary for her to drive you to school.
.....

7 Correct the errors.

- 1 There may is early elections for the city council.
.....
- 2 They should haven't destroyed the forest to build houses in the 1980s.
.....
- 3 They can't know that plastic bags are banned. I'm sure they would have respected the law.
.....
- 4 Could have we learnt from previous mistakes?
.....
- 5 Sarah needn't has waited in the queue to get the tickets last night.
.....

8 Translate the sentences into your own language.

- 1 The growing crime rate might become a serious problem.
.....
- 2 Libraries should be open round the clock.
.....
- 3 They must never build a skyscraper here.
.....
- 4 They should have cleared the pavement earlier.
.....
- 5 Justin looks worried. The interview might not have gone well.
.....

GRAMMAR REVIEW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets and a modal or modal perfect when necessary. Where there is no verb, use relative pronouns.

Las Vegas – A Green City

Since December 2016, Las Vegas ¹ (be) the largest US city to use only renewable energy for all municipal needs and facilities. Its renewable energy project, ² began in 2008, ³ (reduce) electricity usage by 30% and the city now ⁴ (save) \$5 million annually.

Renewable energy ⁵ (come) from natural sources such as sunlight, wind or water. Unlike fossil fuels like coal and oil, renewable energy ⁶ (not generate) pollution. Environmentalists say that the move to renewable energy ⁷ (should / begin) a long time ago, but they are pleased that progress is being made now.

Las Vegas ⁸ (reach) its goal of 100% renewable energy in 2016, ⁹ a large solar plant was opened outside the city. Environmentalists are hoping that Las Vegas' success ¹⁰ (change) public opinion about powering large cities solely with clean energy.

