

MODAL VERBS



Grammar tip: Modals are used to modify the tonality of a sentence. Can indicates ability, Could indicates possibility. Should indicates recommendation, Must indicates obligation. Would indicates a desire.

Structure: (+) Subject + modal + verb

(-) Subject + modal + not + verb.

Negatives with not or n't: would not, wouldn't / could not, couldn't / should not, shouldn't

(?) Modal + subject + verb?

TASK A. Complete the gaps with a word in the parenthesis.

1. You really **shouldn't** watch tv so much. It **hurts** your eyes (couldn't / shouldn't)
2. It's Tuesday, she _____ be at work, she always works from Monday to saturday. (must / could)
3. Speak up, I _____ hear you! (Can't / couldn't)
4. I _____ hear any word he said because there was a lot of noise .(can't / couldn't)
5. Andrew _____ call his wife urgently. (must / shouldn't)
6. Thank you for calling "Zee" Company, how _____ I help you? (can't / can)
7. It _____ rain later, it's cloudy. (should / could)
8. Emma _____ go out tonight, her parents said no. (can't / should)

TASK B. Complete these sentences with the choices below

1. She looks pretty sick. I think she **should** go to see a doctor.

a) should b) can

2. We _____ wear uniform at school, it's the rule

a) should b) must

3. You _____ smoke so much. It's bad for your health.

a) can't b) shouldn't

4. Hey I'm lost. _____ you help me?

a) Can b) Should

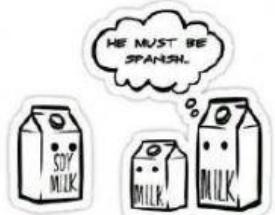
5. You have a beautiful voice.

You _____ sing for us!

a) should b) can

6. I know he speaks five languages, but _____ he speak Arabic?

a) should b) can



7. Sarah _____ like to study in China, she loves their culture!

a) would b) must

8. Put your cellphone in your backpack!!! We _____ bring them to school, the teacher is going to be angry.

a) can't b) musn't

9. _____ I have permission on Monday? (An employee talking with his boss)

a) Could b) can

10. I _____ pay for this computer. I have a little money.

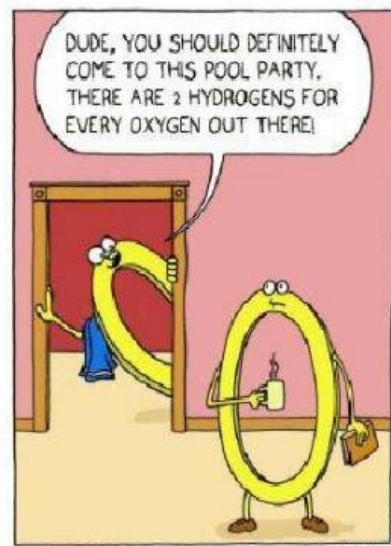
a) can't b) shouldn't



TASK C.

Complete the sentence with a modal

1. She is a small baby. she **should** drink milk.
2. He is so ill I think he _____ see the doctor.
3. It's raining heavily. Son, you _____ take your umbrella .
4. We _____ pick the flowers in the park. It's forbidden.
5. I _____ sing now but I _____ sing very well when I was a child.
6. Mike is only nine months old. He _____ eat nuts yet.
7. I _____ clean my bedroom, my mother is angry because I didn't do it.
8. You are speaking very quickly. I _____ understand you.
9. My brother failed his driving test, I told him: "You _____ practice more for the next test".
10. On vacations he _____ like to travel to many countries.



TASK D

Check your grammar: matching – invitations, offers and requests

Match the two sentence halves and write a – h next to the number 1 – 8.

GROUP A

- 1 Would you like to come for lunch this weekend?
- 2 Can you help me with this table a moment?
- 3 Could you tell me where the nearest bank is, please?
- 4 Would you like me to ask my brother for help?
- 5 Can I come to your house later?
- 6 Could you lend me your book, please?
- 7 Can I get you a cup of tea?
- 8 Would you mind passing me that menu,

Please?



GROUP B

- a. Oh. Yes please!, he knows about this subject. Could you?
- b. Well, actually. I am going to my university right now.
- c. I suppose so. But I need it before Friday, I have an exam.
- d. Yes, of course. Here you go.
- e. Yes, sure. Where do you want to put it?
- f. I'm sorry, I'm not from around here, I don't know.
- g. No, I'm OK, thanks, I drank one cup a few minutes ago.
- h. Oh, I'd love to, thank you.

