

## Modal verbs

Modal Verb	Expressing	Example
must	strong obligation	You <b>must</b> stop when the traffic lights turn red = He <u>has to</u> stop.
	logical conclusion / certainty	He <b>must</b> be very tired. He's been working all day long.
must not	prohibition	You <b>mustn't</b> smoke in the hospital = You <u>can't</u> smoke.
	ability	I <b>can</b> swim.
can	permission	<b>Can</b> I use your phone, please?
	possibility	Smoking <b>can</b> cause cancer.
could	ability in the past	When I was younger I <b>could</b> run fast.
	polite permission	Excuse me, <b>could</b> I just say something?
	possibility	It <b>could</b> rain tomorrow!
may	permission	<b>May</b> I use your phone, please?
	possibility, probability	It <b>may</b> rain tomorrow!
might	polite permission	<b>Might</b> I suggest an idea?
	possibility, probability	I <b>might</b> go on holiday to Australia next year.
need not	lack of necessity/absence of obligation	I <b>need not</b> buy tomatoes. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge. = I <u>don't have to</u> buy any tomatoes.
should/ought to	50 % obligation	I <b>should</b> / <b>ought to</b> see a doctor. I have a terrible headache.
	advice	You <b>should</b> / <b>ought to</b> revise your lessons
	logical conclusion	He <b>should</b> / <b>ought to</b> be very tired. He's been working all day long.
had better	advice	You'd <b>better</b> revise your lessons

**Remember:** Modal verbs are followed by an infinitive without « to ».

NB: **advice**=conseil / **ability**=capacité / **lack**=absence / **prohibition**=interdiction (*it's prohibited/forbidden*)

## Modal verbs

### P/W oral activity:

Your **oral partner** has the answer if you need help!

**Student A** starts the exercise.

**Student B** : scroll down to find your page.

After doing this pairwork orally, you can take the quiz online and do this exercise in writing at the end of the worksheet.

## STUDENT A

### Use the right modal verb

1. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge. You \_\_\_\_\_ buy any.
2. This is a hospital. You **mustn't/can't** smoke here.
3. He had been working for more than 11 hours. He \_\_\_\_\_ be tired after such hard work.  
He may prefer to get some rest.
4. I **could** speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I **can** just say a few things in the language.
5. The teacher said we can read this book for our own pleasure as it is optional. But we \_\_\_\_\_ read it if we don't want to.
6. You **should** / You'd better prepare your report carefully: the boss said he will check your work.
7. If you want to learn to speak English fluently, you \_\_\_\_\_ worry. We will help you become a fluent speaker but you \_\_\_\_\_ work hard..
8. Take an umbrella. It **might** / **may** rain later.
9. You \_\_\_\_\_ leave small objects lying around . Such objects may be swallowed by children.
10. People **mustn't** walk on the grass.
11. Drivers \_\_\_\_\_ stop when the traffic lights are red.
12. **Can** / **May (formal)** / **Might (polite)** / **Could (polite)** I ask a question? Yes, of course.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ you speak Italian? No, I \_\_\_\_\_.
14. You **needn't** / **don't have to** take your umbrella. It is not raining.

## Modal verbs

### STUDENT B

#### Use the right modal verb

1. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge. You **needn't / don't have to** buy any.
2. This is a hospital. You \_\_\_\_\_ smoke here.
3. He had been working for more than 11 hours. He **must / should / ought to** be tired after such hard work. He **may/might** prefer to get some rest.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I \_\_\_\_\_ just say a few things in the language.
5. The teacher said we **can** read this book for our own pleasure as it is optional. But we **needn't/ don't have to** read it if we don't want to.
6. You \_\_\_\_\_ prepare your report carefully: the boss said he will check your work.
7. If you want to learn to speak English fluently, you **needn't / don't have to** worry. We will help you become a fluent speaker but you **have to / must** work hard..
8. Take an umbrella. It \_\_\_\_\_ rain later.
9. You **shouldn't / ought not to** leave small objects lying around . Such objects **may/might** be swallowed by children.
10. People \_\_\_\_\_ walk on the grass.
11. Drivers **must / have to** stop when the traffic lights are red.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I ask a question? Yes, of course.
13. **Can** you speak Italian? No, I **can't**.
14. You \_\_\_\_\_ take your umbrella. It is not raining.

## Modal verbs

**Do the quiz online, then see how well you remember the answers by filling in the exercise below:**

<https://www.myenglishpages.com/english/grammar-exercise-modals.php>

### **Use the right modal verb**

1. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge. You \_\_\_\_\_ buy any.
2. This is a hospital. You \_\_\_\_\_ smoke here.
3. He had been working for more than 11 hours. He \_\_\_\_\_ be tired after such hard work. He may prefer to get some rest.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I \_\_\_\_\_ just say a few things in the language.
5. The teacher said we can read this book for our own pleasure as it is optional. But we \_\_\_\_\_ read it if we don't want to.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ you stand on your head for more than a minute? No, I \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If you want to learn to speak English fluently, you \_\_\_\_\_ worry. We will help you become a fluent speaker but you \_\_\_\_\_ work hard..
8. Take an umbrella. It \_\_\_\_\_ rain later.
9. You \_\_\_\_\_ leave small objects lying around . Such objects may be swallowed by children.
10. People \_\_\_\_\_ walk on the grass.
11. Drivers \_\_\_\_\_ stop when the traffic lights are red.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I ask a question? Yes, of course.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ you speak Italian? No, I \_\_\_\_\_.
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