Modal verbs

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 _____.
14. You _____ take your umbrella. It is not raining.

LIVEWORKSHEETS