


UNIT 4 – Modal verbs

1 Find the verb that doesn't fit in each set.

Modals ...

- 1 for ability: **A** must **B** be able to **C** can/can't
D could/couldn't
- 2 for permission: **A** may **B** be allowed/permitted to
C had better (not) **D** can
- 3 for prohibition: **A** mustn't **B** can't **C** don't need to
D not be allowed/permitted to **E** may not
- 4 to show obligation: **A** must **B** have (got) to
C should have **D** need to
- 5 to show no obligation: **A** couldn't
B don't have to/haven't got to **C** don't need to/needn't
- 6 for advice: **A** should/shouldn't **B** can
C ought (not) to **D** had better (not)
- 7 to show regrets about the past: **A** would
B should/shouldn't have
- 8 to make requests: **A** will **B** would **C** may

2  4.1 Listen and match the sentences (A–E) with the conversations (1–5). Then choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 3 5
- 2 4

- A** You **can't** / **must** go on the ride.
- B** You **shouldn't** / **couldn't** have eaten so much.
- C** **May** / **Should** I ask you one more question?
- D** You are **not permitted** / **allowed** to enter here.
- E** We've **got to** / We **needn't** leave now.

3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 You spend too much time on your computer. You **should** / **can't** spend more time outdoors.
- 2 My parents were very strict when I was younger so I **can** / **couldn't** stay out late.
- 3 The bus leaves at nine, so we **mustn't** / **don't need to** be late.
- 4 Tom is great at scoring goals, but he **can't** / **couldn't** run very fast.
- 5 **Must** / **Would** you pass me the salt, please?
- 6 Thanks for the invitation, but I **shouldn't** / **had better** ask my parents before I say yes.
- 7 Do you think you **were allowed** / **will be allowed** to come with us next Saturday?
- 8 We **have to** / **needn't** worry about food, because my mum says she'll buy us pizzas.
- 9 My sister **can** / **was able to** swim when she was only three years old.
- 10 **May** / **Should** I open the window, please? I feel a bit faint and I need some fresh air.

4 Complete the online post with one word in each gap.



Zander_03 Hi everyone! I want to give you all an update on my last post. My school has given me some special rules for when I do exams. First, I ¹..... be allowed to use my laptop for written exams. This is great because I don't need ²..... worry about my handwriting. I must take exams in the exam hall, but I don't ³..... to finish at the same time as everyone else – I can have an extra 45 minutes. I'm so happy about this, because last year I ⁴..... only able to answer half of the questions – I ⁵..... to read the text and the questions in a time limit, but I couldn't do it. I hope I'll ⁶..... able to get much better grades this year. Anyway, I ⁷..... better get on with my revision now. I've ⁸..... to prepare for the history exam!

5 Choose the correct answers (A, B or C) to complete the conversation.

What time are you going to the pool?

I'm not going, I ¹..... to finish an essay tonight.

But the coach said that we all ²..... to go to the training session, or we ³..... compete on Saturday.

I know, but I ⁴..... get this done today because my teacher wants to see it tomorrow. I ⁵..... written it last weekend, but I didn't feel like it.

You ⁶..... to talk to your teacher and explain the situation.

That's not the problem. My mum said I ⁷..... to go to training. She thinks that school ⁸..... come first.

Well, she's right, I guess.

Yeah, but it's hard when school and swimming have so many rules! ⁹..... you tell the coach why I can't come, please?

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|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1 A have got | B mustn't | C need to |
| 2 A need | B must | C should |
| 3 A shouldn't | B can't | C may not |
| 4 A can | B should | C must |
| 5 A could | B would | C should have |
| 6 A should | B ought | C better |
| 7 A had better | B can | C am not allowed |
| 8 A able to | B should | C allowed |
| 9 A Would | B May | C Have |