

Modals

Modals are verbs that can come before another verb and add to the meaning of that verb. The modals are:

can/could may/might shall/should ought to must have to need

CAN / COULD

1. We use **can** to say that something is possible or that somebody has the ability to do something. **Can** has only two forms: **can** (present) and **could** (past).

Complete the sentences with **can** / **can't** / **could** / **couldn't** + one of these verbs.

come eat hear run sleep wait

1. I'm afraid I **can't come** to your party next week.
2. When Tim was 16, he was a fast runner. He.....100 meters in 11 seconds.
3. "Are you in a hurry?" "No, I've got plenty of time. I....."
4. I was feeling sick yesterday. I.....anything.
5. Can you speak up a bit? I.....you very well.
6. "You look tired." "Yes, I.....last night."

MAY and MIGHT

We use **may** or **might** to say that something is a possibility.

Write these sentences in a different way using **may** or **might**.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Perhaps Margaret is in her office. | She might be in her office. |
| 2. Perhaps Margaret is busy. | |
| 3. Perhaps she is working. | |
| 4. Perhaps she wants to be alone. | |
| 5. Perhaps she was ill yesterday. | |
| 6. Perhaps she went home early. | |
| 7. Perhaps she had to go home early. | |
| 8. Perhaps she was working yesterday. | |

9. Perhaps she doesn't want to see me.
10. Perhaps she isn't working today.
11. Perhaps she wasn't feeling well yesterday.

SHOULD

You should do something = it is a good thing to do or the right thing to do. You can use **should** to give advice or to give an opinion.

For each situation write a sentence with **should** or **shouldn't** + one of the following:

**go away for a few days go to bed so late look for another job put
some pictures on the walls take a photograph use her car so much**

1. (Liz needs a change) She **should** go away for a few days.
2. (My salary is very low) You
3. (Jack always has difficulty getting up.) He.....
4. (What a beautiful view) You.....
5. (Sue drives everywhere. She never walks.) She.....
6. (Bill's room isn't very interesting)

MUST and HAVE TO

We use **must** and **have to** to say that it is necessary to do something. Sometimes it doesn't matter which you use, but there is a difference between them: **must** is personal, we use it when we give our personal opinions or feelings. **Have to** is impersonal; we use it for facts, not for our personal opinions or feelings.

Complete these sentences with **must** or **have to** (in the correct form). Sometimes it is possible to use either; sometimes only **have to** is possible.

1. It's later than I thought. I **must/have to** go now.
2. Jack left before the end of the meeting. He **had to** go home early.
3. In Britain many children wear uniform when they go to school.
4. When you come to London again, you come and see us.
5. Last night Don became ill suddenly. We call a doctor.
6. You really work harder if you want to pass the examination.
7. I'm afraid I can't come tomorrow. I work late.
8. I'm sorry I couldn't come yesterday. I work late.

9. Paul doesn't like his new job. Sometimes he work at weekends.
10. Caroline may go away next week.
11. We couldn't repair the car ourselves. We take it to a garage.
12. Julia wears glasses. She wear glasses since she was very young.

MUST, MUSTN'T and NEEDN'T

'You **must** do something' = it is necessary that you do it.

'You **mustn't** do something' = it is necessary that you do *not* do it (so don't do it).

'You **needn't** do something' = it is *not necessary* that you do it, you don't need to do it.

*Complete the sentences with **must**, **mustn't** or **needn't**.*

1. We haven't got much time. We **must** hurry.
2. We've got plenty of time. We **needn't** hurry.
3. We have enough food at home so we go shopping today.
4. Jim gave me a letter to post. I remember to post it.
5. Jim gave me a letter to post. I forget to post it.
6. There's plenty of time for you to make up your mind. You decide now.
7. You wash those tomatoes. They've already been washed.
8. This is a valuable book. You look after it carefully and you lose it.
9. 'What sort of house do you want to buy? Something big?' 'Well, it be big - that's not important. But it have a nice garden - that's essential.'

Put the verbs in brackets in their correct forms.

1. (we/should) bring a present to the party?
2. (I/have to) do my homework now?
3. When (you/can) fix my computer?
4. (you/can't) be a little quieter?
5. Why (we/have to) get up so early?
6. (I/may) rest in here for a little while?
7. (he/have to) pay for those tickets?
8. (I/must) pay this bill right away?
9. (we/should) wait a little longer for Sam?

Complete the cartoon captions with the expressions from the box.

he might be it may not be can this be it can be you could I'll



'..... the same man who
.....
pulled Excalibur out of a stone?'



'Yeah, they're all right,
take them.'



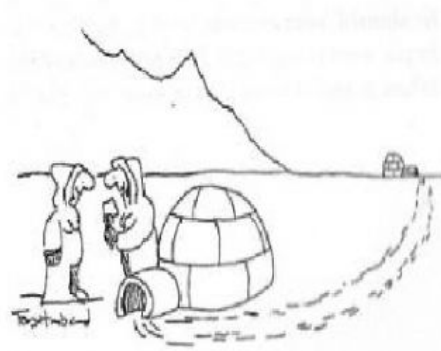
'Oh my God! His report says
Prime Minister one day!'



'Provided you eat sensibly, stay off
the beer, cigarettes and whisky, don't
take any strenuous exercise and keep
away from women, live
for another twenty minutes.'



'Frankly, Wallace, I think you'd better stop telling it. If no one laughs, a joke.'



'It's a Valentine card. I wonder who from.'