

Modal Verbs: revision

1. ABILITY:

Can / can't, Could / couldn't, [be] able to.

- When Robert was younger he _____ run very fast.
- How long have you _____ play the guitar?
- Look! I _____ lift this chair with one hand.
- We _____ put out the fire before much damage was done.

2. PERMISSION: Can, could, may, might.

- _____ I sit here?
- _____ I have a look at your magazine?
- _____ I try this on?
- _____ borrow your dictionary for a while?

3. OBLIGATION & NECESSITY:

must, have to

- You _____ get a visa to visit the United States.
- It's getting late. We _____ go now.
- Tracy _____ stay in bed yesterday because she had a bad cold.
- Mr Mason _____ wear glasses since he was a child.

4. OBLIGATION & NECESSITY:

mustn't, don't have to, don't need to (needn't to)

- You _____ open the door before the train stops. You could fall out.
- We _____ hurry. We have got plenty of time.
- You _____ tell Nicky about the party. I've already phoned her.
- I _____ get up early tomorrow.



5. POSSIBILITY:

may (+++), might (++), could (+).

- Perhaps he is ill. (may)
- Perhaps they went out. (might)
- Perhaps he doesn't know the address. (may)
- Perhaps they are going on holiday. (could)
- Perhaps she didn't catch the bus. (may)

6. POSSIBILITY:

can, could

- Elephants _____ live for up to 70 years.
- Temperatures in the South Pole _____ reach minus 43 degrees centigrade.
- A hundred years ago ships _____ cross the Atlantic in ten days.
- Dinosaurs _____ reach up to 5 metres long.

7. DEDUCTION: must, can't

- The lights are on in the house, so they _____ be at home.
- He _____ know Dublin very well. He's lived there all his life.
- You've just had dinner. You _____ be hungry already.
- Those shoes you are wearing are very nice. They _____ cost you a fortune.

8. Rephrase the sentences using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- Perhaps she'll phone later. [might] _____
- I'll probably be at home at six. [should] _____
- Perhaps they went home. [could] _____
- It's impossible that he's telling the truth. [can't] _____
- I'm sure you've heard the news. [must] _____
- Perhaps I won't go out this evening. [may] _____
- It's impossible that she saw us. [can't] _____
- I'm sure the bus has already left. [must] _____
- Perhaps he was not qualified for the job. [might] _____
- She'll probably here soon. [ought to] _____

9. **USED TO** - Study the model sentences:

Cantona **USED TO PLAY** for Manchester United, but he doesn't now.

Sam **DIDN'T USE TO EAT** much fruit but he has a much healthier diet now.

Complete the following ones with **USED TO / DIDN'T USE TO** and a suitable verb.

- Gary _____ (work) here, but he's got a new job now.
- Ann _____ (walk) much, but she walks for or five kilometres a day now.
- They are poor now, but they _____ (have) a lot of money.
- They _____ (not + go) camping, but they have bought a camper van and they have even joined a club.

10. **USED TO / WOULD** - Study the model sentences:

My grandfather **USED TO BE** a policeman. / Sam **USED TO HAVE** a moustache.

When I was a child, my neighbours **USED TO TAKE** us to the cinema every Saturday.

(= When I was a child, my neighbours **WOULD TAKE** us to the cinema every Saturday.)

Complete the following ones with **USED TO / WOULD**.

- That shop _____ be a grocer's when I was a child, now it's a supermarket.
- _____ you _____ enjoy history lessons when you were at secondary school?
- When I was little, I _____ be afraid of the dark.
- When we were children we _____ visit my grandmother every Sunday.
- Mrs Wood was a real chatterbox! She _____ spend hours speaking about anything.
- My sister (not) _____ like fish when she was a child.

11. **BE USED TO / GET USED TO** - Study the model sentences:

I WAS **USED TO** DRIVING small cars. / Sam ISN'T **USED TO** WORKING at night.

She says she WILL never GET **USED TO** WORKING the night shift.

Translate into English:

(1) Ella solía ser muy estudiosa. (2) Él no está acostumbrado a hablar en público. (3) Nosotros nos acostumbramos a la vida en la aldea rápidamente. (4) Cuando éramos pequeños, íbamos a merendar a la playa todas las tardes. (5) Ella no solía comportarse tan testarudamente. (6) En tres semanas te acostumbrarás a tus nuevos profesores.

Suggested answers:

- 1) She used to be very studious / She used to be a very good student.
- 2) He is not used to speaking in public / ... in front of an audience.
- 3) We got used to the life in the village quickly.
- 4) When we were little kids, we used to go (/ we would go...) for a picnic on the beach every afternoon.
- 5) She didn't use to behave so stubbornly.
- 6) In three weeks' time (In three weeks), you will get used to your new teachers.