



MODALS

Choose the best alternative.

By one o'clock the temperature **must/ should** have been 45 degrees and still rising. I realised we **should/ must** have set off much earlier in the morning, as we **had to / must** cross five hundred kilometres of desert in our old car.

But first, Jeff **couldn't find / couldn't have found** his wallet, and then Alice forgot her straw hat and Mark **needed to/ought to** phone his girlfriend from the petrol station, which **must/ had to** have taken him at least half an hour. So when the car overheated and we **must have stopped /had to stop**, I knew we were in trouble.

There was no shade where we **could/ may** escape from the sun, so we just **should /had to** stay by the side of the road, in the burning heat until the engine cooled down. After about 30 minutes I **was able to/ allowed to** start the car again, but soon I saw steam coming from the front and I realised it **must/ought to** have got too hot again I was worried that this **might / should** seriously damage the engine, so I told the others that we **may /had to** stop again.

Mark wasn't happy about this. He said it was better to keep going, that we **needn't/ mightn't** stop if the car was still running. He also said I **should / must** have checked the car carefully before we left, which made me quite angry because I had.

By then, though, I was beginning to think it **need/ might** have been a mistake to attempt to cross a desert in a car as old as that. Suddenly, I had my fears confirmed when there was a horrible noise from the engine. I **can /was able** to stop safely, but when we got out of the car I knew we would **must/have to** find another way to continue our journey. We tried using our mobile phones, but we **may not/ couldn't** get a connection. All we could do was wait by the car in that terrible heat, hoping that another vehicle **should /might** just come along soon.

