

Modal Verbs



Modal Verbs are always followed by the infinitive without to.

Group number:

Class code:

MODAL VERBS	USE	EXAMPLES
CAN	ability request permission	She can run like no one else. Can I ask you a favour? You can come in now.
COULD	request ability	Could you call the nurse, please? When he was younger, he could dance for hours.
MAY	permission possibility	May I come in? He may be late tomorrow.
MIGHT	possibility	We might not wait for you.
MUST	necessity	I must leave now.
MUSTN'T	prohibition	You mustn't drive without a license.
SHOULD	advice moral obligation	She should see a doctor. We should respect nature.



1.

Choose the right modal verb for each situation.

- We should/ can/ may go home now. It's getting cold.
- May / Must / Might I start the game?
- Tim just shouldn't / couldn't / can't speak, he was so shocked.
- You mustn't / couldn't / mightn't smoke here.
- Tomorrow I can / might / should go to the beach, but I'm not sure.



2.

Fill in the blanks with the most suitable modal verb.

- When she was younger, she _____ run very fast.
- I _____ understand a word she's saying.
- The doctor told me I _____ in bed. It's essential, he said.
- You _____ smoke. It's not good for you.
- I don't know if I _____ do this exercise. It's rather difficult.
- You _____ never lie to your parents.



3.

Replace the underlined expressions by a modal verb. Start as suggested.

a) I'm not capable of speaking French.

I _____.

b) You have the obligation to report all incidents.

You _____.

c) My advice is that he follows his father into the medical profession.

He _____.

d) She has the ability to overcome her problems.

She _____.

e) It's possible that I come late tomorrow.

I _____.

f) It's forbidden to turn right on this road.

You _____.

