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Modal Verbs

6

Fill in: *can, can't, could, couldn't, was/wasn't able to or had been able to.*

- 1 He *could/was able to* run much faster when he was younger.
- 2 On entering the house, she smell something burning in the kitchen.
- 3 I'm busy today, so I go shopping with you.
- 4 I heard Brian's voice, but I see him until I turned on the lights.
- 5 When I lived on the coast, I swim in the sea every day.
- 6 If Gordon avoid the rush hour traffic, he would have arrived at the party on time.
- 7 I'm not usually very good at tennis, but yesterday I beat my brother in a match.
- 8 He fix the tap, so he called a plumber.
- 9 I had my hands full, so I open the door.
- 10 Angela is very clever. She speak four languages.

Must – Have to – Have got to (Necessity – Obligation)

- **Must** (= it's necessary; I'm obliged to) **is used when the speaker decides what is necessary to do.** *I must buy some new clothes.* (I say so. I decide what to do.)
- **Have to** (= it's necessary) **is used when the necessity comes from outside the speaker or when others decide for the speaker what is necessary to do.**
He has to be at work at 9.00. (The boss says so.)
- **Have got to** has the same meaning as 'have to' but it is used in spoken English. *"Mum, I've got to go to the library."*
- **Must is stronger than 'have to' and indicates urgency and importance.** *I must meet Jane tonight.* (It's very urgent that I meet her.) *I have to meet Jane tonight.* (I need to meet her.)
- **Must is used only in the present or future.** *I must go to the meeting tomorrow.* It borrows the rest of its tenses from 'have to'. *She had to be present at the lecture last Monday.*

7

Fill in: *must or have to.*

- Bill: Hi, Alan. Why weren't you at the meeting this morning?
- Alan: I had a doctor's appointment. So, what did I miss?
- Bill: Well, Mr Newton, the new factory owner, said that we
- 1) *have to* wear overalls at all times. Also, he wants us to arrive at 8 am and we 2) clock in.
- Alan: What about overtime?
- Bill: There is a possibility of working overtime but you 3) decide whether you want to work extra hours.
- Alan: Did he say anything about break times? I hope we don't
- 4) clock in and out every time we have a break.
- Bill: No, we don't, but Mr Newton insists that we 5) have fifteen-minute breaks every three or four hours. Like before, we 6) choose when we would like to take those breaks.
- Alan: I see. And did he say anything about the parking? I think it's terrible that the company says we
- 7) use the public car park. It's too far away.
- Bill: I 8) say I agree with you, Alan, but he didn't say anything. We 9) bring it to the attention of the personnel department sometime.



Mustn't – Needn't (Prohibition – Absence of Necessity)

- **Mustn't** (it's forbidden). You **mustn't** get off the bus before it stops.
- **Needn't/Don't have to** (it isn't necessary). Today is a holiday – you **needn't/don't have to** go to work.

8 Underline the correct item.

SNORKELLING

Information and safety tips

- 1 You **mustn't/needn't** go snorkelling alone.
- 2 You **mustn't/don't have to** be an athlete to go snorkelling.
- 3 You **don't have to/mustn't** go snorkelling in dangerous waters.
- 4 You **needn't/mustn't** buy your own equipment. You can rent it.
- 5 You **needn't/mustn't** harm the wildlife when you go snorkelling.
- 6 You **mustn't/don't have to** wear equipment that doesn't fit properly.



Needn't – Didn't need to – Needn't have (Absence of necessity)

- **Don't have to/Don't need to/Needn't + bare infinitive** (it is not necessary to do sth in the present or future).
You **don't have to/don't need to/needn't** worry about it any more. I'll take care of that. (It is not necessary to worry.)
- **Didn't need to/Didn't have to + bare infinitive** (It was not necessary in the past and we may not know if the action happened or not.) She **didn't need to/didn't have to** buy a dress for the party. (It wasn't necessary for her to buy a dress, and we don't know if she bought one.)
- **Needn't + bare perfect infinitive** (We know that something happened in the past although it was not necessary.) You **needn't have said** that. She **already knew** my name. (You said it, although it was not necessary.)

9 Fill in the gaps with: *needn't have*, *didn't need to* and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I ran through the airport, but I ... *needn't have hurried* ... (**hurry**) because the flight had been cancelled.
- 2 I (**ask**) for directions since I'd been to Karl's house before.
- 3 We (**give**) her a present after all; it wasn't even her birthday!
- 4 I (**buy**) any milk since I later discovered that Brian had picked up some that morning.
- 5 Since all cinema employees get free entry, Frank (**pay**) for his ticket.
- 6 He (**get up**) early on Saturdays. He never worked at weekends.

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Modal Verbs

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Fill in the gaps with *mustn't* or *needn't/don't have to*.

- 1 A: Shall I help you clean the car?
B: No, thanks. You *needn't/don't have to* help me. I can do it myself.
- 2 A: Tell Claire and Sam that they drive us to the party. Nathan's offered to take us.
B: No problem. I'll tell them tonight when I see them.
- 3 A: You touch the statues in the museum.
B: I know. It's forbidden.
- 4 A: Tell George that he forget to pay the electricity bill today.
B: OK. I will.
- 5 A: You be late for your appointment tomorrow morning.
B: Don't worry. I won't.
- 6 A: I'm going to the shops. Do you want anything?
B: No. You get me anything. I've just been.

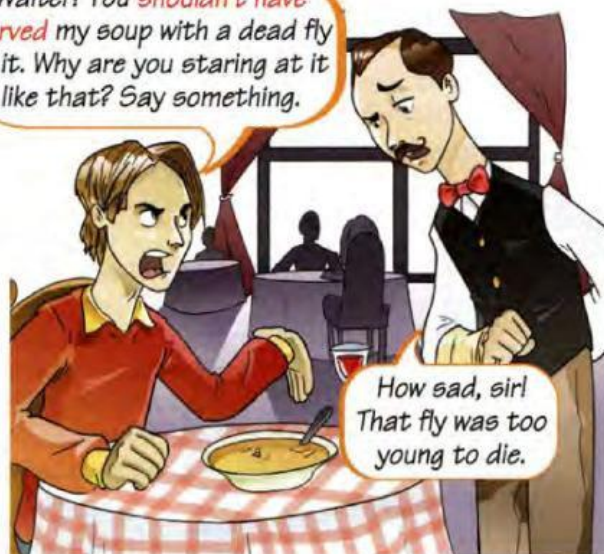


Listen and repeat. Then act out.

Continuous and Simple Forms with Modal Verbs

- **Modal + be + -ing** expresses an action in progress now.
She may be sleeping.
- **Modal + have been + -ing** expresses an action in progress in the past.
He may have been sleeping then.
- **Modal + have + past participle** expresses a complete action in the past.
He shouldn't have taken your bicycle.

Waiter! You *shouldn't have served* my soup with a dead fly in it. Why are you *staring* at it like that? *Say something.*



11

Fill in: *must*, *can't*, *should*, *may*, *might*, or *could* and the appropriate form of the verbs.

- Fred: I've been trying to phone Rupert all day, but there's no answer. He 1) *must be working* (work).
 Jill: No. He 2) (work). He never works on Sunday.
 Fred: Oh! Then I suppose he 3) (go) away somewhere for the day.
 Jill: Possibly. But I'll be upset with him if he has. He 4) (tell) me, so that I
 5) (go) with him.
 Fred: I hope he's OK. He 6) (have) an accident, you know.
 Jill: Don't worry. He 7) (still/sleep). You know he has a lot of work on at the moment. He 8) (work) until late last night.
 Fred: I suppose so, or he 9) (go) to Ted's party.
 Jill: That's it! He 10) (go) there and stayed out till really late.

Expressions similar to Modal Verbs

- **Be supposed to + infinitive** means 'should/ought to' but it expresses the idea that someone else expects something to be done. *I'm supposed to attend the seminar.* (The manager expects me to do so). *I should attend the seminar.* (*It's a good idea because I might get some useful information.*)
- **Be to + infinitive** means 'must' but it expresses the idea that someone else demands something. *I am to get to the airport before 9.00.* (My boss has told me to go there, so I can't avoid it.) *I must get to the airport before 9.00.* (If I don't go there, there will be no one to meet the person who is coming tonight.) **Be supposed to** and **Be to** are used to express what someone expects about a previously arranged event. *The conference is supposed to/is to start tomorrow.* (It is scheduled.)
- **Be likely to** means 'may' (possibility). To express possibility in questions we don't use 'may'. We use: *Is he likely to ...?, Is it likely that he ...?, Can he ...?, Could he ...?, Might he ...?*
Is he likely to win the race? Is it likely that he will win the race? Could he win the race? etc.
- **Would you mind** is used to express polite, formal requests. *Would you mind lending me a hand?*
- **Let's .../How about ...?/Why don't we ...?/What about ...?** are used to make suggestions. *Let's go for a ride. How about going for a ride? Why don't we go for a ride? What about going for a ride?*
- **Would you like to/Would you like me to ...? (= Shall I ...?)** are used when we offer to do something. *Would you like me to pick up your laundry? (Shall I pick up your laundry?)*
- **Be allowed to** is used to express permission, to say what the rule is. *He was allowed to cross the border.* (NOT: ~~He could cross~~) *Was he allowed to enter the building?*

12 How else can you express the following?

- Can I have the last cake, please? *May/Could/Might I have the last cake, please?*
- Let's go for a bike ride.
- She might be on holiday.
- Could you hold this for me, please?
- You can't take photos in here.
- I've been ordered to wait outside the classroom.
- Shall we go to the basketball match?
- How about inviting Sally and Mary?
- Is it possible that he will be offered the job soon?
- Would you mind moving your car, please?
- Would you like me to make lunch?
- You are expected to be here on time.

13 Fill in a modal or a synonymous expression and the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets.

- I'm gaining weight. I really *have to try* (try) to go on a diet, like the doctor said.
- What a lovely day! (we/go) for a walk?
- I'm not sure where Gary is. He (be) at the library.
- That (not/be) Bill's car. He doesn't own one.
- Tom (sleep) but I'm not sure. Why don't you go and see?
- Don't worry. You (not/dress) formally for the party.
- If you wanted to borrow my car, you (ask) me.
- This dog (belong) to Harry. It's got his address on its collar.