

# MODAL VERBS

## FUNCTIONS OF MODAL VERBS

Complete the groups 1-8 in your notebook with the words in the box

be able to	can	can't	have to	may	mustn't	needn't	ought to
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1. **PROHIBITION:** can't, .....
2. **PERMISSION:** be allowed to, .....
3. **ABILITY:** can, could, managed to .....
4. **OBLIGATION:** must, need to, .....
5. **NO OBLIGATION:** don't have to, .....
6. **ADVICE:** should, had better, .....
7. **POSSIBILITY:** might, could, .....
8. **DEDUCTION:** must, (could not), .....

## ABILITY, PERMISSION, PROHIBITION

Read sentences A-D

- |  |
|--|
| A. I <b>won't be allowed to</b> have a tattoo.   |
| B. I' <b>ve never been able to</b> grow a beard. |
| C. We finally <b>managed to</b> get a ticket.    |
| D. You <b>mustn't</b> open the door.             |

Answer these questions. Answer using capital letters.

1. Which sentences refer to permission? .....
2. Which sentences refer to prohibition? .....
3. Which sentences refer to ability? .....
4. Which sentence refers to a particular effort in the past? .....
5. Which of the blue phrases can be substituted with **can** or **could**? .....

## ADVICE

Read the sentences

- A. You'd better go or she'll get upset
- b. We ought to watch that film, I suppose

1. Which of sentences A and B sounds like a warning? .....
2. What is the negative form of the underlined verb in A? .....
3. What is the negative form of the underlined verb in B? .....

## OBLIGATION/NO OBLIGATION

Read the sentences.

- A. We have to/must wear a uniform.
- B. We don't have to/ needn't wear a uniform
- C. We mustn't wear a uniform.

1. Which of the sentences indicate no obligation? .....
2. Which sentence prohibits something? .....
3. Write the past form of the sentences A-C in the gaps below:  

A. We ..... wear a uniform.

B. We ..... wear a uniform.

C. We ..... wear a uniform.

## POSSIBILITY AND DEDUCTION

Read the sentences

- A. They must be comfortable in those clothes
- B. She might be wearing make-up. I'm not sure.
- C. That could cause an accident

1. Which of the sentences indicate possibility?

2. Which of the sentences indicate deduction?

Write THE OPPOSITE of the sentences A-C in the gaps below:

- A. They ..... be comfortable in those clothes
- B. She ..... be wearing make-up. I'm not sure.
- C. That ..... cause an accident

### MODAL PERFECTS

We use some modal verbs with *have + past participle* to talk about past events. Can you write the modal perfect form of sentences B and C?

- A. They **must have been** comfortable in those clothes
- B. She ..... wearing make-up. I'm not sure.
- C. That ..... an accident

### PRACTICE:

1. Complete the sentences with the words from the box

can't	couldn't	can't	don't have to	might	should
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- 1 In the future, wearable technology ... be popular.  
(possibility)
- 2 You ... get a piercing. They're cool. (advice)
- 3 You ... be good-looking to be beautiful. (no obligation)
- 4 Most people ... buy designer labels because they're too expensive. (ability)
- 5 I ... get a tattoo when I was younger. My parents were against it. (permission)
- 6 Wearing 50-cm long shoes ... have been practical.  
(deduction)