

Modals and semi-modals

1. Answer true or false about the following statements.

a. All modal verbs have more than one meaning.

True/False

b. Semi-modal verbs are formed in the same way

as modal verbs, but their meanings are
different. True/False

3. What meaning is expressed by the modal and semi-modal verbs highlighted in the sentences?

There's one more thing you **must** do before you apply.

What time are we **supposed to** be there?

We **have to** leave here at nine.

a. Expressing obligation

b. Asking permission

c. Expressing (un)certainty

Can I take it for an hour or so?

Could I ask you something?

Please **may** I go to the toilet?

a. Expressing obligation

b. Asking permission

c. Giving advice/suggestions

2. Which modal verb is missing from all the sentences?

Write the full form **once**.

You _____ need some assistance – it's a tough job!

I _____ not be there after all – something's come up.

When I've finished the course, I _____ apply for a new job, but I haven't decided.

_____ you be able to join us this evening?

They _____ be in Holland – look, you can see windmills in the background.

She _____ speak fluent Spanish.

You _____ 't smoke in here – it's against the law.

_____ I ask a quick favour?

That _____ 't be right – surely it's a mistake!

I _____ put you in contact if you need.

When you come for the weekend, we _____ go to the Pyrenees!

I _____ n't believe it! It was so close!

Is there any chance you _____ have a look at this proposal?

This photo _____ have been taken in Athens, but I can't remember.

We **shouldn't** do anything until we know more.

You **must** read this article. It's so interesting!

I think we **ought to** aim to arrive at least fifteen minutes before.

- a. Giving advice/suggestions
- b. Expressing probability
- c. Making a request/offer

I **can't** do anything for a while.

I'm not sure we'll **be able to** find a taxi.

I **could** play the piano perfectly years ago, but not now!

- a. Giving advice/suggestions
- b. Making a request/offer
- c. Expressing (in)ability

I'm **sure** they'll agree.

It **can't** be a virus.

It **must** be late—it's dark outside.

- a. Expressing obligation
- b. Expressing willingness/refusal
- c. Expressing certainty

_____ we **dance**?

It's getting cold – _____ we put the heating on?

_____ we meet at, say, seven?

_____ I help you with your homework?

Ah! That's _____ be the postman – I'm expecting a delivery.

Accidents _____ happen!

_____ you help me with my homework?

I _____ certainly do my best.

_____ the real Slim Shady please stand up?

What _____ you do in my situation?

I _____ n't want to be in your shoes!

_____ you be able to persuade him, do you think?

_____ n't it be lovely to have a picnic by the river!

Unfortunately, they _____ n't give us permission.