

# Modal Verbs

## Match

When I was young I **could play** the piano very well, but I'm all rusty now.

You **may go** to the party but you need to finish your homework first.

I'm allowed to go to the party, but mum said I **have to do** my homework first.

Wait for me! I **can't run** very fast!

You **mustn't feed** the lions. It's dangerous.

I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I **must tell** her the truth.

You **shouldn't talk** so disrespectfully to your mother.

It **may rain** later so we'd better go shopping now.

You **should try** the clothes on before buying them.

She can't stop yawning. She **must be** really tired.

possibility

past ability

lack of ability

permission

prohibition

advice

internal obligation

external obligation

logical deduction

criticism

Use the modal verbs in the box to fill in the gaps.

could - may (x2) - have to - can't - mustn't - must (x2) - shouldn't - should

- I wouldn't break up with him if I were you. I think you  have a heart-to-heart conversation first.
- He ate four sandwiches! He  be really hungry!
- You  invite a friend as long as your room is clean and tidy.
- My grandma said I  be mean to my little sister and punished me, but she started it!
- Young children  use sharp scissors under any circumstances; they could get hurt.
- I  ride a bicycle when I was a kid, but I'm afraid I can't do it now.
- I can't go out tonight. My teacher said I  turn in the assignment on Monday, so I guess I'll be working on it all weekend.
- I've already spent a fortune on clothes. I  restrain myself. I won't buy another garment until the end of the month.
- My little brother  read yet. You'll have to draw him a picture if you want him to understand.
- We  go to the party tonight but we haven't made up our minds yet. I'll let you know as soon as we've made a decision.

Now write the number of the sentence with the modal that expresses each idea.

possibility:

prohibition:

logical deduction:

past ability:

advice:

criticism:

lack of ability:

internal obligation:

permission:

external obligation: