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Which modal do I use?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a If you like Impressionist art, you should visit the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.
b If you like Impressionist art, you have to visit the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.
- 2 a I think that children should respect their parents.
b I think that children must respect their parents.

We use *should* to talk about what we think is right, best or correct:
*I don't think people **should** keep big dogs in small apartments.*

We use *have to* to talk about what is necessary or compulsory:
*Do young men **have to** do military service in your country?*

We also use *must* to talk about what is necessary or compulsory, especially when the subject of the verb is not a person or when the main verb is passive:

*All applications **must** be received by 31 January.*

☆ In the negative, *mustn't* means 'not allowed', but *don't have to* means 'not necessary':

*The cheque **must not** exceed the value of the guarantee card.*

*EU citizens **don't have to** get a visa to travel to the US.*

We use *must* to talk about what we are sure is true. The opposite is *can't*:

*She **must** be bored at home all day on her own.*

*You **can't** be tired – you've only just got up!*

2 Correct the mistake below.

LUGGAGE SHOULD NOT
BE LEFT UNATTENDED
UNATTENDED LUGGAGE
WILL BE
REMOVED AND MAY BE
DESTROYED



Luggage unattended.

3 Complete the following sentences using an appropriate modal verb.

- 1 All children under 12 be accompanied by an adult.
- 2 There's a free 30-day trial period, so you pay anything for the first month.
- 3 I missed the last train and get a taxi home.
- 4 We need more sugar already – I only bought some last week.
- 5 All accidents be recorded in the incident book.
- 6 Have you seen their house? They have a lot of money.
- 7 That cut looks really bad – I think you go to hospital.
- 8 You lift the lid while the rice is cooking or all the steam will be released and it won't cook properly.