

Modals of ABILITY

We use the modal **CAN** to talk about ability in the present.

- I **can** speak English
- You **can** drink my tea and read my book then.
- I **can** meet you tomorrow.
- She is old. She **can't** play tennis.
- **Can** I ask a question?

We use the modal verb **COULD** to talk about ability in the past.

- When I was 6, I **could** ride a bike.
- We **couldn't** go out.
- What **could** they draw? They could draw a horse.
- He **could** speak seven languages in thirties.

As **can** and **could** cannot be used to talk ability in all tenses, we use **be able to** in other tenses.

- They are not **able to** write correctly.
- Will they **be able to** find the key?
- Will she **be able to** cope with the work?
- The child is not yet **able to** write.

Modals of POSSIBILITY

We use **MAY**, **MIGHT** and **COULD** to talk about present or future possibility. We can substitute may, might and could for maybe, perhaps or probably (which aren't modal verbs)

- I **might** study math.
- I **may** pass chemistry's exam.
- I **may** eat dinner at 8:00 pm.
- Where is my wallet? It **could** be in the my room.
- We **could** go to the party this afternoon.
- He **could** be lost.
- They **could** be there by now.
- Price **can** be high in Texas.
- She **could** finish her project tonight.
- I **might** join you if I finish my work early.
- They **could** still be waiting for us.
- Winters in Alaska **can** be really cold.

PRACTICE. - MODAL VERBS CAN, MAY, MUST, HAVE TO.

A) Rewrite the sentences with can, may, must or have to.

Ex.: Is that all right if I borrow your pen? - May/Can I borrow your pen?

Don't park your car on bends. It is illegal. 1. You

Perhaps she will agree with it. Who knows? 2. She

Our teacher asked us to tidy the classroom. 3. We

I need your help. It's too much work for me. 4. You

Look at that balloon. It's over there. 5. see?

Don't worry about dinner. I'll make it. 6. You

It is not necessary to be there. 7. We

Why don't you stay with us? No problem! 8. You

B) Match 1 - 10 to a - j. Write the letter on the line.

1. It is a very good film. _____
2. He is not sure now. _____
3. She is so different. _____
4. It is the last train. _____
5. It's Sunday today. _____
6. This exhibition is not free of charge. _____
7. I'll prepare breakfast myself. _____
8. The coach leaves tonight and it takes twelve hours to get here. _____
9. Your address is the same. _____
10. We have plenty of time. _____

a *You needn't get up early.*

b *You don't have to get up early.*

c *We can't miss it.*

d *We mustn't miss it.*

e *You can be her sister.*

f *You can't be her sister.*

g *I have to buy a ticket.*

h *I must buy a ticket.*

i *He may come tomorrow.*

j *He must come tomorrow.*