

MODAL VERBS

A) Fill in the blanks with the modals in the box.

- 1) My mother is at home although it is Monday. She ----- be ill.
- 2) Babies ----- sleep regularly.
- 3) You ----- enter the room without permission.
- 4) You ----- wear school uniform in this school. There isn't an obligation.
- 5) ----- you help me please?
- 6) I ----- swim but my brother ----- swim well.
- 7) I ----- be careful while driving. It is foggy.
- 8) You ----- drink cold water. You ----- get ill.
- 9) Jenny ----- drive a car next year.
- 10) ----- you ----- finish the book?
- 11) I ----- swim when I was four.

- a) Can't*2
- b) Will be able to
- c) Could
- d) Must be
- e) must
- f) Should
- g) Shouldn't
- h) Don't have to
- i) Can*2
- j) May

B) Choose the correct answer.

- 1) There is somebody in the living room. It **must** / **should** be the cat.
- 2) You **must** / **mustn't** make noise in the library.
- 3) "Can / could you play tennis as a child?" "No, I **can't** / **couldn't**. I wasn't good at sports."
- 4) "Could/ can I go out, please?"
- 5) My father is at work now. He **mustn't** / **can't** be at home.
- 6) Wendy **will** be able to / **can** finish her exam on time.
- 7) We **must** / **can** hurry up otherwise we **will** / **would** be late.
- 8) My mother told me : "You **have to** / **should** take these pills."
- 9) The gardener **must** / **can't** be busy. He is doing nothing but sleeping.
- 10) We **mustn't** / **don't have to** water the flowers. Because it is raining.

C) Write sentences with similar meaning using the given modals.



- 1) I won't go to school tomorrow because tomorrow is Sunday.
-----.(**don't have to**)
- 2) You are very ill. You need to go to the doctor.
-----.(**should**)
- 3) It is forbidden to smoke in this area.
-----.(**can't**)
- 4) There is somebody in the kitchen. But my mum isn't at home.
-----.(**can't**)
- 5) I have a project. The deadline is tomorrow.
-----.(**have to**)
- 6) Tomorrow is Sunday. I sleep until midday on Sundays.
-----.(**be able to**)
- 7) It is snowing heavily. Don't go out, please.
-----.(**shouldn't**)

D) Fill in the blanks with suitable modals.

- 1) The train leaves at nine. We -----hurry up if we want to be there on time.
- 2) We ----- help Paul. He is in trouble.
- 3) ----- you help me please? I ----- carry these bags.
- 4) We ----- be quiet. The baby is sleeping. She ----- wake up.
- 5) There ----- be something wrong with Sara. She is not OK.
- 6) You ----- finish the project tonight. You have enough time.
- 7) My father always says that I ----- study harder.
- 8) I ----- read when I was five but my brother -----.
- 9) I ----- be at home before midnight. Otherwise my father will be angry with me.
- 10) I ----- go out tonight. Because I ----- take care of my little sister.
- 11) "----- you sing well?" "No, I -----"

E) Match the sentences with their usages.

- 1) We must obey the rules. ---
- 2) I can't play the piano. ---
- 3) We should help Derek. ---
- 4) We have to go to work. ---
- 5) We can carry the boxes. ---
- 6) I couldn't ride a bike. ---
- 7) She may have a problem. ---
- 8) I have to visit my uncle. ---
- 9) You shouldn't smoke. ---
- 10) Can I borrow your pencil?-----

- a) Ability
- b) Past habits
- c) Asking for permission
- d) Giving advice
- e) Lack of ability in the past
- f) Obligation
- g) Lack of ability
- h) Obligation
- i) Possibility



KEY

A) Fill in the blanks with suitable modals in the box.

- 1) must be
- 2) should
- 3) can't
- 4) don't have to
- 5) Can
- 6) Would
- 7) can't / can
- 8) must
- 9) shouldn't / may
- 10) able to
- 11) could

B) Choose the correct answer.

- 1) There is somebody in the living room.
It **must** / **should** be the cat.
- 2) You **must** / **mustn't** make noise in the library.
- 3) "Can / **could** you play tennis?" "No, I **can't** / **couldn't**. I wasn't good at sports."
May / can I go out, sir?"
- 4) My father is at work now. She **mustn't** / **can't** be at home.
- 5) Will / **would** you mind opening the window?
- 6) We **must** / **can** hurry up otherwise we **will** / **would** be late.
- 7) My mother: "You **have to** / **should** take these pills."
- 8) The gardener **must** / **can't** be busy. He is doing nothing but sleeping.
- 9) We **mustn't** / **don't have to** water the flowers. Because it is raining.

c) Rewrite the sentences with the given modals.

- 1) I won't go to school tomorrow because tomorrow is Sunday.
--I don't have to go to school tomorrow---. (don't have to)
- 2) You are very ill. You need to go to the doctor.
--You should go to the doctor---. (should)
- 3) It is forbidden to smoke in this area.
--You cannot smoke here---. (can't)
- 4) There is somebody in the kitchen. But my mum isn't at home.
--There is somebody in the kitchen but it can't be my mum. (can't)
- 5) I have a project. The deadline is tomorrow.
--I have to finish my project until tomorrow---.
(have to)
- 6) Can you open the door, please?
--Would you mind opening the door?---.
(would)
- 7) It is snowing heavily. Don't go out, please.
--You shouldn't go out---. (shouldn't)

D) Fill in the blanks with suitable modals.

- 1) The train leaves at nine. We **-must-** hurry up if we want to be there on time.
- 2) We **-should-** help Paul. He is in trouble.
- 3) **-Would-** you like to drink something cold with us?
- 4) **-Can-** you help me please? I **--can't--** carry these bags.
- 5) We **--must--** be quiet. The baby is sleeping. She **--may--** wake up.
- 6) There **--must--** be something wrong with Sara. She is not OK.

- 7) You **--don't have to--** finish the project tonight. You have enough time.

- 8) My father always says that I **--must--** study harder.
- 9) I **--could--** read when I was five but my brother **--couldn't--**.
- 10) I **--have to--** be at home before midnight. Otherwise my father will be angry with me.
- 11) I **--can't--** go out tonight. Because I **--must--** take care of my little sister.
- 12) "**--Can--** you sing well?" "No, I **--can't--**"

D) Fill in the blanks with suitable modals.

- 13) The train leaves at nine. We **-must-** hurry up if we want to be there on time.
- 14) We **-should-** help Paul. He is in trouble.
- 15) **-Would-** you like to drink something cold with us?
- 16) **-Can-** you help me please? I **--can't--** carry these bags.
- 17) We **--must--** be quiet. The baby is sleeping. She **--may--** wake up.
- 18) There **--must--** be something wrong with Sara. She is not OK.
- 19) You **--don't have to--** finish the project tonight. You have enough time.
- 20) My father always says that I **--must--** study harder.
- 21) I **--could--** read when I was five but my brother **--couldn't--**.
- 22) I **--have to--** be at home before midnight. Otherwise my father will be angry with me.
- 23) I **--can't--** go out tonight. Because I **--must--** take care of my little sister.
- 24) "**--Can--** you sing well?" "No, I **--can't--**"

F) Match the sentences with their usages.

- 1) We must obey the rules. -h-
- 2) I can't play the piano. -i-
- 3) We should help Derek. -e-
- 4) We have to go to work. -j-
- 5) We can carry the boxes. -a-
- 6) I couldn't eat myself. -f-
- 7) Would you like to go out? -b-
- 8) She may have a problem. -k-
- 9) I would visit my uncle. -c-
- 10) You shouldn't smoke. -g-
- 11) May we go out? -d-