

# Modal Verbs

couldn't   ought to   needn't  
would   must   might  
shall   should   may  
don't have to

## 1. Choose the most appropriate sentence.

- The film will begin at 9.30.
  - We should arrive early to get good seats.
  - We mustn't get tickets ahead of time.
- Please come with me to the shop.
  - You don't have to be there.
  - I may need your help.
- Sylvia is very ill.
  - She ought to go to the doctor.
  - I think she can go to the doctor.
- The concert might be cancelled.
  - What a pity!
  - Great! Let's go!
- Nancy's party is tonight. I'm so excited!
  - Am I able to pick you up at 8.30?
  - Shall I pick you up on my way there?

## 2. There has been a murder at Chillingham Castle. Circle the correct modal verb to discover the killer.

There has been a murder at Chillingham Castle. The murderer <sup>1</sup> might / should be Sally Higgins. She was at a party at the castle that day. It <sup>2</sup> couldn't / may not be Doug Wilson. He was in another city, and he has got the plane tickets to prove it. Megan Hanes <sup>3</sup> can't / shall not be the killer. She says that she was at a concert, and there are several people who saw her there. It <sup>4</sup> couldn't / mustn't be Joe Devlin. He's not strong enough to hurt anyone. The killer <sup>5</sup> must / doesn't have to be Steve Gordon. The bloody clothes of the murder victim were found in his car. He <sup>6</sup> ought to / needn't have destroyed all the evidence.

## 3. Complete the sentences with these modals: mustn't • could • shall • don't have to • must • might

- I haven't seen Matt all day. He \_\_\_\_\_ be out of town.
- \_\_\_\_\_ you tell me what time it is, Sir?
- They \_\_\_\_\_ bring anything to the class party, but they can if they want to.
- You \_\_\_\_\_ go through a red traffic light. It's illegal!
- Jasmine \_\_\_\_\_ go to France next summer, but she hasn't decided yet if she will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ we eat at a restaurant tonight?

## 4. Complete the sentences with the correct modal perfect.

- How sweet! You needn't / couldn't have bought anything for me.
- Ben looks great! He should / must have lost a lot of weight.
- If you wanted perfection, you may / ought to have hired a different actress.
- Hey, there's Shaun! It looks like he might / would have met someone new.





**5.** Complete the sentences with *can, could, may, might, should, will, would* or *must* in the positive or negative form.

- Richard's only three but he \_\_\_\_\_ swim very well.
- You've had that headache for two days. I think you \_\_\_\_\_ go to the doctor.
- I don't think we \_\_\_\_\_ go to the park because it \_\_\_\_\_ rain this afternoon.
- I lived in Germany as a child so I \_\_\_\_\_ speak German then but I \_\_\_\_\_ speak it now.
- You \_\_\_\_\_ remember to take your passport tomorrow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ you close the door, please?
- We \_\_\_\_\_ move house next year but we're not sure yet.
- Passengers \_\_\_\_\_ stand up when the plane is taking off.
- I think you \_\_\_\_\_ play tennis with Sally - she \_\_\_\_\_ play really well.
- "Do you think I \_\_\_\_\_ learn some Portuguese before I go to Brazil?"  
- "Yes, that \_\_\_\_\_ be a good idea."
- We \_\_\_\_\_ remember to pay this bill before the weekend - it's important. If we don't, we \_\_\_\_\_ have no electricity.
- I know you like sugar but you \_\_\_\_\_ eat quite so much - it's bad for you.
- I'll be at work on Saturday so I'm afraid I \_\_\_\_\_ come to the football match with you.
- I was listening very carefully but I \_\_\_\_\_ hear what she said.

**6.** Complete the paragraph using the modals below.

can • could • have to • must • ought to • might

I seem to spend most of my time studying. I am sure of this <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ be very unhealthy. Maybe I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ try to change something in my lifestyle. "You <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ want to start riding your bike to school", my mother suggested. "You <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ride very well when you were younger. Of course, I will <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ buy you a new bike, but I don't mind", she added. I didn't know what to say. As it is, I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ hardly get out of bed in the morning. Maybe I ask Diana what she thinks. I think I'll phone her right now.

**7.** Write sentences you could say in these situations. Use modals.

- You want your friend to help you study for your Maths test.
- You want to ask your parents' advice about a problem with a friend.
- You see a little girl playing with a ball very close to the street.
- You want to ask your grandfather about something he knew how to do when he was a child.
- You want the person next to you to open the window.
- You need to tell your friend the Maths homework isn't for tomorrow.
- You want to wear your brother's jacket.
- Your friend wants your opinion about what to wear for a party.

**8.** Complete these dialogues with a modal perfect: *must, can't* or *may* and the right participle from these verbs below:  
steal • take (x2) • be (x2) • do

- A: Where's the car?  
B: Well, Sam \_\_\_\_\_ it to go to work.  
A: He \_\_\_\_\_ the car this morning because I saw him on the train.  
B: Oh no! In that case someone \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- A: Oh no! Who did that?  
B: Well, it wasn't one of us. It \_\_\_\_\_ one of the kids from next door.  
A: Well, It \_\_\_\_\_ them because they've gone away on holiday. So one of you \_\_\_\_\_ it!