

Modal Verbs

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

1. Choose the most appropriate sentence.

1. The film will begin at 9.30.
 - a. We should arrive early to get good seats.
 - b. We mustn't get tickets ahead of time.
2. Please come with me to the shop.
 - a. You don't have to be there.
 - b. I may need your help.
3. Sylvia is very ill.
 - a. She ought to go to the doctor.
 - b. I think she can go to the doctor.
4. The concert might be cancelled.
 - a. What a pity!
 - b. Great! Let's go!
5. Nancy's party is tonight. I'm so excited!
 - a. Am I able to pick you up at 8.30?
 - b. 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 ¹ might / should be Sally Higgins. She was at a party at the castle that day. It ² couldn't / may not be Doug Wilson. He was in another city, and he has got the plane tickets to prove it. Megan Hanes ³ 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 ⁴ couldn't / mustn't be Joe Devlin. He's not strong enough to hurt anyone. The killer ⁵ must / doesn't have to be Steve Gordon. The bloody clothes of the murder victim were found in his car. He ⁶ 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

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

4. Complete the sentences with the correct modal perfect.

1. How sweet! You needn't / couldn't have bought anything for me.
2. Ben looks great! He should / must have lost a lot of weight.
3. If you wanted perfection, you may / ought to have hired a different actress.
4. 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 ¹ _____ be very unhealthy. Maybe I ² _____ try to change something in my lifestyle. "You ³ _____ want to start riding your bike to school", my mother suggested. "You ⁴ _____ ride very well when you were younger. Of course, I will ⁵ _____ buy you a new bike, but I don't mind", she added. I didn't know what to say. As it is, I ⁶ _____ 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!