Modal Verbs

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

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.

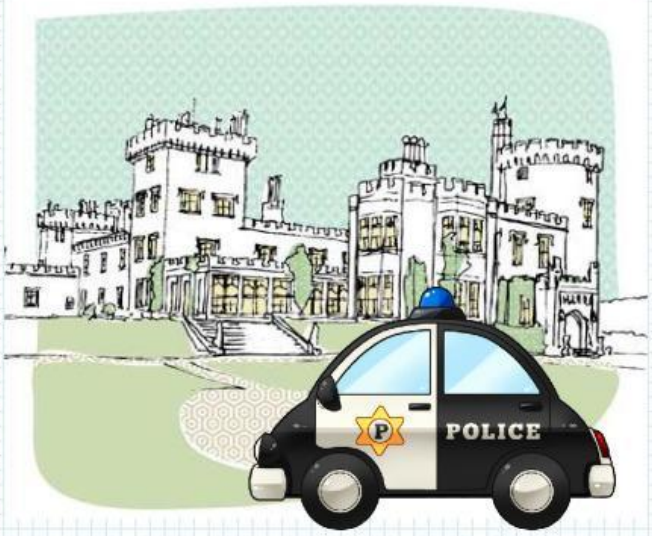
3. Complete the sentences with these modals:

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.



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

1. Richard's only three but he _____ swim very well.
2. You've had that headache for two days. I think you _____ go to the doctor.
3. I don't think we _____ go to the park because it _____ rain this afternoon.
4. I lived in Germany as a child so I _____ speak German then but I _____ speak it now.
5. You _____ remember to take your passport tomorrow.
6. _____ you close the door, please?
7. We _____ move house next year but we're not sure yet.
8. Passengers _____ stand up when the plane is taking off.
9. I think you _____ play tennis with Sally - she _____ play really well.
10. - "Do you think I _____ learn some Portuguese before I go to Brazil?"
    - "Yes, that _____ be a good idea.
11. We _____ remember to pay this bill before the weekend -it's important. If we don't, we _____ have no electricity.
12. I know you like sugar but you _____ eat quite so much -it's bad for you.
13. I'll be at work on Saturday so I'm afraid I _____ come to the football match with you.
14. 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.

1. You want your friend to help you study for your Maths test.
2. You want to ask your parents' advice about a problem with a friend.
3. You see a little girl playing with a ball very close to the street.
4. You want to ask your grandfather about something he knew how to do when he was a child.
5. You want the person next to you to open the window.
6. You need to tell your friend the Maths homework isn't for tomorrow.
7. You want to wear your brother's jacket.
8. 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

3. 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.
4. 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!

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