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can - could - may - will - would must - have to - need (to) - can't III

Grammar

Can, could, may, will, would, must, need, etc. are **modal verbs** and:

- they do not form all the tenses.
- they are the same in all persons, singular and plural.
- they form the interrogative and the negative without auxiliary verbs (**do/did**).
- they are followed by the **base form of a verb, without to**.

a can/could/may/will/would

We use **Can I..?, Could I..?, May I..?:**

- to ask for, give or refuse **permission**.
  Can/Could/May I go to the park, Mum?
  Yes, you can/may. *No, you can't/may not.*
- to make polite requests and offer help.
  Can/Could/May I have some more tea?
  Can/Could/May I get you some coffee?

We use **Can/Could/Will/Would you...?:**

- to make polite requests or ask for a **favour**.
  Could and **Would** are more polite.
  Can/Could/Will/Would you give me a lift?

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b must / have to / can't

We use must:

- in the affirmative and interrogative to express **obligation** in the present and future.
  I must give James a call. *Must we go so soon?*
- in the negative to express **prohibition**.
  You mustn't use more than 15 GBs a month.

We use have to:

- in the affirmative and interrogative to express **obligation** in the present and future.
  You have to wear a uniform. *Do you have to work on Saturdays?*
- in the negative to express **absence of obligation**.
  She doesn't have to pick up if she doesn't recognise the telephone number.

NOTE:

- **Must** expresses an obligation that the speaker imposes on himself/herself or others.
  Have to expresses an obligation that is imposed by somebody or something else.
- **Must** and **have to** form the Past with **had to/didn't have to** and the Future with **will have to/won't have to**. The affirmative expresses obligation and the negative absence of obligation in the past or the future respectively.
  Kate didn't have to go to school yesterday because she was ill.
  You must prepare your presentation tonight because you will have to give it at 9 a.m. tomorrow.
- To express prohibition, we can also use **can't**.
  You can't use your mobile phone in the hospital.

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need (to)

We use **need**:

- as a **main verb** in all tenses in the affirmative, interrogative and negative. It is followed by a **full infinitive** and forms the interrogative and negative with **auxiliary verbs** (do/does, did etc.)
- as a **modal verb** in the interrogative and negative of the **Present Simple** only. It is followed by a **bare infinitive** and forms the interrogative and negative without **auxiliary verbs**.

Affirmative	Negative	Questions
I need to go	I don't need to go I needn't go	Do I need to go? Need I go?
He/She/It needs to go	He/She/It doesn't need to go He/She/It needn't go	Does he/she/it need to go? Need he/she/it go?
We/You/They need to go	We/You/They don't need to go We/You/They needn't go	Do we/you/they need to go? Need we/you/they go?

We use **need:**

- in the affirmative and interrogative to express **necessity.**
  I need to talk to Jane.
- in the negative to express **absence of necessity**.
  You don't need to buy anything.
  She needn't catch the bus. She can take the underground instead.

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Activities

A. Circle the correct words.

1. **Could / May** you get me a newspaper when you go out?
2. **A: Will / Can** I go shopping with my friends, Mum?
   B: No, you **won't / can't** . You've got lots of homework to do.
3. **A:** Please remember that you **must / need** be here by 2 p.m.
   B: OK. I'll **must / have to** leave work earlier.
4. **A: Would / May** you mind teaching me how to drive?
   B: I'm sorry, I **may not / can't** . You're too young to drive.
5. **A: Could / May** you leave a message, please?
   B: Sure. Please, tell Mr Smith that his car is ready.
6. **A:** Excuse me, **may / would** I take this bag with me on the plane?
   B: Of course you **would / may** , sir.
7. **A:** Jenny, when can I borrow your camera? I really **need / need to** it.
   B: I **must / can** give it to you on Monday, and you **don't have to / mustn't** give it back for another week or so.
8. **A: Do I need / Need I** wash the car today?
   B: Yes! It's very dirty!
9. **A: Can / Will** I give you a lift?
   B: Thanks, Harry.

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B. Complete the dialogues using the words in the box.



would need have to

1. **A:** I _____ some help. _____ you mind helping me?
   B: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm too busy. I _____ finish this project in two hours.



need to can't could can

2. **A:** I _____ drive you home if you like.
   B: That's very kind of you, but I _____ buy some things from the supermarket. _____ you drive me there first?
   A: I'm afraid I _____ . I'm in a hurry.

C. Circle the correct words.

1. Maria **has to / needs** be home by midnight.
2. You **mustn't / don't have to** eat if you aren't hungry.
3. You've got all day tomorrow to return Betty's call. You **mustn't / don't need** to talk to her tonight.
4. Sheila **must / have to** take her medicine.
5. You **needn't / don't have** cook tonight. We're eating out.
6. We **need / must** to buy our bus tickets.
7. The office is closed tomorrow so I **mustn't / don't have to** get up early.
8. Thanks a lot for the present, but you **had to / didn't have to** buy me anything.
9. You **mustn't / don't have to** go for the 128rX mobile phone. It's much too expensive.

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