

Grammar in Action

A Complete the sentences. Use modal verbs.

- 1 Excuse me, _____ you tell me how to use this photocopying machine, please?
- 2 _____ you change channels to see if there's anything more interesting on, please?
- 3 I really believe you _____ accept the job as a chemistry teacher.
- 4 Penny _____ be exhausted. She's been at a photo shoot all day.
- 5 Liz has replied to neither my messages nor my phone calls. She's either very busy or she _____ be asleep.
- 6 I _____ send those reports out for you this evening if you like.

B Read the dialogue and circle the correct words.

- Joanne: I'd love a new tablet, but I (1) **can't** / **might** seem to manage without a keyboard. I borrowed my sister's tablet last weekend as I really (2) **had to** / **must** work and I just (3) **didn't have to** / **couldn't** use it.
- Natalie: Well, you (4) **should** / **need** check out the new touchscreen notebook. It's amazing!
- Joanne: Oh, I (5) **must** / **would** go to a shop and have a look at one! How small is it? How long does the battery last?
- Natalie: It's very small and you (6) **needn't** / **may not** worry about the battery. Apparently, it can last up to eight hours.
- Joanne: (7) **Would** / **Shall** we go and compare prices this afternoon? It (8) **must** / **can** be expensive if it's new.
- Natalie: Actually, it's not too bad. Let's go and look into it.

C Circle the correct words.

- 1 Tom is backing up his computer so you **mustn't** / **don't have to** turn it off.
- 2 Jessie **can't be** / **mustn't be** eighteen! Surely she's younger than that.
- 3 Tom really **ought to** / **might** apologise to Sam for breaking his screen.
- 4 **Shall** / **Might** I go ahead and order a new TV?
- 5 **Would** / **Ought** you help me with my science project, please?
- 6 You **needn't** / **mustn't** print the document. I've already printed it.

D Complete the sentences with modal verbs.

- 1 Helen _____ be English. She speaks the language with a heavy accent.
- 2 You _____ look those words up in a dictionary. I've already found them.
- 3 Employees _____ smoke in the laboratory. It's forbidden.
- 4 Olivia _____ take part in the competition, though she's not sure yet.
- 5 I'm always the one who helps the professor. You _____ volunteer to help every now and then.
- 6 _____ you make a speech at the next medical conference, Dr Hamilton?

E

- 2

References

- 1

SHOULD

In my opinion, you _____ an IT technician about this problem.

- 2

TAKEN

Tom _____ your calculator without asking.

- 3

ABLE

We _____ the experiment yesterday.

- 4

HAVE

Rosie _____ the photo on the social networking site.

- 5

TO

_____ turn our mobile phones off during the exam?

- 6

BE

Alice _____ in the IT department.

ECCE in Action

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete the sentences.

- 1 ____ I borrow your digital camera, please?
a May
b Should
c Would
d Must
- 2 I think we ____ to discuss the results of the experiment in private.
a must
b would
c ought
d can
- 3 Justin ____ not come with us to the festival. He'll give us a definite answer tonight.
a should
b will
c could
d might
- 4 When I was at college, we ____ have a physics lesson every Monday.
a must
b would
c needed to
d might
- 5 Eliza ____ me the truth, but she didn't.
a must tell
b might have told
c may tell
d should have told
- 6 Sam ____ have read my emails. There's no other way he could have found out about the party.
a might
b should
c must
d would
- 7 Carla ____ to be careful or she'll get into trouble.
a will
b would
c ought
d must
- 8 You ____ speak to the IT manager this morning. Why didn't you?
a were able to
b must
c ought to
d were supposed to
- 9 Thankfully Emma ____ solve my PC issues and I can work properly again.
a was supposed to
b was able to
c needed to
d had to
- 10 University students ____ smoke in the halls of residence. It's forbidden.
a mustn't
b don't have to
c not able to
d needn't
- 11 I ____ my charger at home. It isn't in my bag.
a must be leaving
b could leave
c must have left
d may be leaving
- 12 I was so nervous about my exams that I ____ sleep all night!
a mustn't
b shouldn't
c couldn't
d mightn't
- 13 We had left our front door keys at home, but fortunately Paul ____ climb over the fence to open the back door.
a could
b must
c was able to
d had to
- 14 'Harriet wasn't in the meeting room this morning.' 'Hmm. She ____ in the laboratory. She had a lesson there this afternoon.'
a might have been working
b could be working
c has to work
d should have worked
- 15 When she was young, the scientist ____ often spend all night working on her experiments.
a should
b can
c must
d would
- 16 Marcia, you ____ posted all those documents. I've already scanned them and sent them by email.
a didn't need to
b needn't have
c hadn't
d didn't have to
- 17 'I found these keys in the staff room.' 'Oh, they ____ be Dr Marshall's. She said she had lost them earlier.'
a can
b must
c would
d had to
- 18 'I avoided telling Sam the truth as I knew he would be disappointed.' 'Well, you ____ have told him the truth. He's extremely offended now.'
a ought to
b would
c must
d needn't
- 19 I'm afraid I ____ to translate these texts for you next week. I simply don't have the time.
a couldn't
b ought not
c won't be able
d mustn't
- 20 'Rob didn't seem disappointed this afternoon.' 'The only explanation is that he ____ have heard the news yet.'
a shouldn't
b can't
c mustn't
d needn't

FCE in Action

Complete the text with one word in each gap.

Life on another planet?

For a long time, people have been anticipating the day when we discover another planet on which humans (1) _____ survive; a planet which will therefore be similar to the Earth in size and atmosphere. This day, it seems, (2) _____ not be so far away.

Apparently, astronomers have recently been (3) _____ to find a planet whose temperature allows liquid to exist on its surface. Does this mean that there is life on this planet and that we, as humans, (4) _____ be able to survive there? Even if that is the case, there are still many questions that (5) _____ to be answered. Some of us may already (6) _____ planning life on another planet, but it will be a while before we can actually go there. The discovery, though, is certainly an exciting step in the right direction.