

Language focus

Revision of all modals

1 Tick (✓) the most likely explanation for each of these modals.

1 Leanne may be getting married soon.

- a ☐ Leanne has permission to get married soon.
b ☒ It's possible Leanne will get married soon.



2 I couldn't swim until I was 16.

- a ☐ I wasn't allowed to swim until I was 16.
b ☐ I wasn't able to swim until I was 16.

3 No one can smoke in pubs or restaurants.

- a ☐ No one is allowed to smoke in pubs or restaurants.
b ☐ No one is able to smoke in pubs or restaurants.

4 You should wear glasses.

- a ☐ My advice is that you wear glasses.
b ☐ It's possible that you will have to wear glasses.

5 Will you walk the dog?

- a ☐ I'm asking you to walk the dog.
b ☐ Are you at some time in the future going to walk the dog?

6 I couldn't get the top off the jar.

- a ☐ I didn't manage to get the top off the jar.
b ☐ I wasn't allowed to get the top off the jar.

7 You must be hungry.

- a ☐ You need to be hungry.
b ☐ I'm sure you are hungry.

8 Andy's very busy, so he may not go to the party.

- a ☐ Andy doesn't have permission to go to the party.
b ☐ There's a possibility Andy won't go to the party.

2 Underline the two most suitable modals.

- 1 You should / may / ought to get your hair cut. It's too long.
- 2 Can / May / Should I ask you a question?
- 3 Parents could / must / have to use an appropriate child restraint for their child in all motor vehicles.
- 4 You might / 'll / may get a seat on the train, but it's unlikely, as it's always packed.
- 5 I could / can / 'll be studying Mandarin this time next year.
- 6 I should / ought to / must be able to speak French fluently. I've lived in Paris for five years.
- 7 You 'll have to / ought to / may work much harder if you want to pass.
- 8 It's an Italian restaurant. They should / can / have to do good spaghetti.
- 9 You may / can / will leave your valuables in the hotel safe.
- 10 You could / have to / must be between 150 cm and 190 cm tall to be a flight attendant.

3 Underline the correct answer.

- 1 You mustn't / won't have any problems with Josh. He's a good baby.
- 2 You don't have to / mustn't use cream in this sauce, but it makes it much tastier.
- 3 I couldn't / wouldn't watch the tennis final because Mia phoned for a long chat about her boyfriend.
- 4 Timmy's so stubborn. He just can't / won't listen to any advice.
- 5 I'm afraid I can't / may not come to your wedding as I'll be in Australia.
- 6 I was able to / could get 20% off the price in the sale.
- 7 You don't have to / mustn't say a word about this to your mother. It's a surprise.