

FCE Unit 3.2

In the second part of chapter 3, we review the modal verbs of obligation, necessity and permission—*must*, *have to*, *should*, *need to*, *can*, etc. The textbook warns to be careful with modal verbs because exam candidates often make mistakes with these. Modal verbs aren't difficult to use; if mistakes are common, it's because modal verbs behave differently from other auxiliaries. Let's review the rules:

- **Modal verbs never change their form.** There is no 3rd person form (+s) or past form (+ed).
- **The main verb that follows is in its plain form, without "to"** (e.g., *I must go*, not *I must to go*).
- **Negatives are made by adding *not* right after the modal** (e.g., *you should not go* or *shouldn't*).
- **Questions are formed by inversion.** Put the modal verb before the subject to ask a question (e.g., *Can you help?*).

Look at the exercise and example below. Imagine you are extremely rich. Talk about your holidays in the places shown, using *must*, *have to* and *don't have to*. Talk about transportation, accommodation, food, activities, entertainment and people.

When I go to Los Angeles, I tell my secretary that I **must stay** at the Beverley Wiltshire hotel. My suite **must have** a private swimming pool and jacuzzi. Luckily I **don't have to queue** at the airport as I have a private jet, and a limousine to meet me. Even though I'm very rich, I still **have to take** a passport like everyone else.



Need to / needn't. Before moving on to more practice, I want to look closely at one modal: *need to / needn't*. *Needn't* is used in British English. (Americans say "don't need to".) Mistakes with this modal occur when students forget that it is an auxiliary verb—so it must be followed by a verb. Compare the following sentences:

- (A) I have a car. **We needn't a taxi.** ✗ incorrect
(B) I have a car. **We needn't call a taxi.** ✓ correct

In (A) *needn't* is used incorrectly. Before a noun, the phrase "don't need" is correct. In (B) *needn't* is used correctly because it appears before a verb.

OK. Here is an exercise to review the uses of these modal verbs. Look at the extracts (a-g) from the recording in the previous lesson (3.1) and then match them with phrases 1-6.

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|--|------------------------|
| a) you should take warm clothes | 1) There's no choice. |
| b) you really need a windproof coat | 2) It's necessary. |
| c) you don't have to socialize if you don't want to | 3) It's forbidden. |
| d) cruise ships are not allowed to go where they like | 4) It's allowed. |
| e) they have to take scientists to lead the excursions | 5) It's not necessary. |
| f) only small parties are permitted to land | 6) It's a good idea. |
| g) you've got to keep quiet | |

Rewrite the sentences to correct the mistakes with modals of obligation and necessity.

- a) You needn't much space to park your car. _____
- b) Another thing, should I to take my camera with me? _____
- c) You needn't smoke here; it's a no smoking area. _____
- d) It is better to go by car because you must not get up early. _____
- e) We have get to the exhibition early or we won't get a ticket. _____
- f) You don't have to swim off the rocks because it's dangerous. _____
- g) My doctor says I need give up smoking. _____
- h) Lisa must to buy a ticket before getting on the bus. _____
- i) I don't have to be late or I'll miss my plane. _____

Now, for some speaking practice. Talk about the following situations using each of the following modal verbs: *must*, *have to*, *need*, *should* (either in affirmative or negative. Here is an example:

EXAMPLE: I'm going to travel abroad.

- **I need to get** a new passport.
- **I have to have** an injection.
- **I must pack** my bag.
- **I should buy** a new pair of sunglasses but I don't think I have time.

- a) It's the weekend tomorrow.
 - b) My brother is 18 next week.
 - c) My friend is getting married soon.
 - d) I started a new job last week.
 - e) I've got toothache.
 - f) I'm having a party on Saturday.
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Permission. Now let's talk about a small group of words that have similar meaning but different rules for use: *can*, *permit*, *allow* and *let*. Each of these words express permission, but both *permit* and *allow* are followed by "to"; *let* and *can* are not. For example:

What did your parents **let** you **do** when you were younger?

What are you **allowed to do** when you are 18 in your country?

[Note that *can* is the more common way of asking for and giving permission. *Could* is a bit more polite and *may* is quite formal.]

Using *permit*, *allow*, *let* or *can* once only, complete these sentences. You may need to add other words.

- a) I wasn't to go on holiday with my friends until I was sixteen.
 - b) You stay at this campsite without booking in advance.
 - c) Peter me borrow his large suitcase when I went shopping in New York.
 - d) They us to board the plane early because we only had hand luggage.
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Finally, let's do an exercise that appears on the FCE. You must complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use 2-5 words, including the word given. (Note that contractions count as two words.)

- 1) The travel agent said, 'All passengers for Marseilles must change trains in Paris:

TO

The travel agent said that all passengers for Marseilles
..... trains in Paris.

- 2) Smoking in the hotel restaurant is not allowed.

FORBIDDEN

It in the hotel restaurant.

3) I wasn't allowed to go on holiday in June last year.

LET

My boss on holiday in June last year.

4) This is a 'no swimming' area.

PERMITTED

You in this area.

5) It's a good idea to have health insurance when you go on holiday.

GET

You before you go on holiday.

6) It is not necessary for men to wear a jacket and tie to enter the restaurant.

HAVE

Men a jacket and tie to enter the restaurant.

7) It's not necessary to wear heavy clothing in the summer months.

NEED

You on heavy clothing in the summer months.

8) You must telephone the hotel and book in advance if you want to be sure of a room.

GOT

You up the hotel and book in advance if you
want to be sure of a room.