

MODAL VERBS

CAN / BE ABLE TO / COULD

1. Complete the sentences using *can* or *(be) able to*. Use *can* if possible; otherwise use *(be) able to*.

1. Gary has travelled a lot. He **can** speak five languages.
2. I haven't **been able to** sleep very well recently.
3. Nicole **can** drive, but she hasn't got a car.
4. I used to **be able to** stand on my head, but I can't do it now.
5. I can't understand Martin. I've never **been able to** understand him.
6. I can't see you on Friday, but I **can** meet you on Saturday morning.
7. Ask Catherine about your problem. She might **be able to** help you.

2. Complete the sentences with *can / can't / could / couldn't* + the following: come, eat, hear, run, sleep, wait.

1. I'm afraid I **can't come** to your party next week.
2. When Tim was 16, he **could run** 100 metres in 11 seconds.
3. "Are you in a hurry?" "No, I've got plenty of time. I **can wait** .
4. I was feeling sick yesterday. I **couldn't eat** anything.
5. Can you speak a little louder? I **can't hear** you very well.
6. "You look tired. " " Yes, I **couldn't sleep** last night"

3. Complete the answers to the questions with *was / were able to* ...

1. A: Did everybody escape from the fire? B: Yes, although the fire spread quickly, everybody **was able to escape**.
2. A: Did you finish your work this afternoon? B: Yes, there was nobody to disturb me, so I **was able to finish it**.
3. A: Did you have difficulty finding our house? B: Not really. Your directions were good and we **were able to find it**.
4. A: Did the thief get away? B: Yes. No-one realized what was happening and the thief **was able to get away**.

4. Choose the correct words:

1. I **won't be able** to go to the cinema on Tuesday. I always play football on Tuesdays.
2. I **could** swim ten years ago. I learnt when I was five.
3. She reads the BBC website because she **can** speak English.
4. **Could** you ride a bike ten years ago?

5. I **couldn't** find the file that you wanted. Where was it?
6. My mum **can't** drive. She hasn't got a driving licence.
7. **Will you be able to** help me later? Yes, I'll come soon.

MIGHT

5. Write sentences using "might" or "might not":

1. (It's possible that I'll go to the cinema). **I might go to the cinema.**
2. (It's possible that I'll see you tomorrow) **I might see you tomorrow.**
3. (It's possible that Sarah will forget to phone) **Sarah might forget to phone.**
4. (It's possible that it will snow today) **It might snow today.**
5. (It's possible that I'll be late tonight) **I might be late tonight.**
6. (It's possible that Mark will not be here next week) **Mark might not be here next week.**
7. (It's possible that I won't have time to go out) **I might not have time to go out.**

6. Write sentences with *might*:

1. Where are you going for your holidays? (to Ireland???) I haven't decided yet. **I might go to Ireland.**
2. What sort of car are you going to buy? (a Mercedes???) I'm not sure yet. **I might buy a Mercedes.**
3. What are you doing this weekend? (go to London???) I haven't decided yet. **I might go to London.**
4. When is Tom coming to see us? (on Saturday???) He hasn't said yet. He **might come on Saturday.**
5. What is Julia going to do when she leaves school? (go to university???) She's still thinking about it.
She might go to university.

HAVE TO / DON'T HAVE TO / MUST / MUSTN'T

7. Complete the sentences with *have to* / *has to* / *had to*.

1. Bill starts work at 5 a.m. He **has to get up** at four. (he / get up)
2. "I broke my arm last week". "**Did you have to go** to hospital? (you/ go)
3. There was a lot of noise from the street. **We had to close** the window. (we / close)
4. Karan can't stay for the whole meeting. **She had to leave** early. (she / leave)
5. How old **do you have to be** to drive in your country? (you /be)
6. I don't have much time. **I have to hurry.** (I / hurry)

7. How is Paul enjoying his new job? **Does he have to travel** a lot? (he / travel)
8. "I'm afraid I can't stay long" "What time **do you have to go**? (you /go)
9. "The bus was late again" "How long **did you have to wait** ? (you / wait)
10. There was nobody to help me. I **had to do** everything by myself. (I /do)

8. Complete the sentences using *have to + the verbs* in the list. Some sentences are positive (I have to) and some are negative (I don't have to ...): *ask, do, drive, get up, go, make, make, pay, show.*

1. I'm not working tomorrow, so I **don't have to get up** early.
2. Steve didn't know how to use the computer, so I **had to show** him.
3. Excuse me a moment – I **have to make** a phone call. I won't be long.
4. I'm not so busy. I have a few things to do, but I **don't have to do** them now.
5. I couldn't find the street I wanted. I **had to ask** somebody for directions.
6. The car park is free. You **don't have to pay** to park your car there.
7. A man was injured in the accident, but he **didn't have to go** to hospital because it wasn't serious.
8. Sue has a senior position in the company. She **has to make** important decisions.
9. When Patrick starts his new job next month, he **will have to drive** 50 miles to work every day.

9. Complete the sentences with *mustn't* or *don't / doesn't have to*.

1. I don't want anyone to know about our plan. You **mustn't** tell anyone.
2. Richard **doesn't have to** wear a suit to work, but he usually does.
3. I can stay in bed tomorrow morning because I **don't have to** go to work.
4. Whatever you do, you **mustn't** touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
5. There's a lift in the building, so we **don't have to** climb the stairs.
6. You **mustn't** forget what I told you. It's very important.
7. Sue **doesn't have to** get up early, but she usually does.
8. Don't make so much noise. We **mustn't** wake the children.
9. I **mustn't** eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
10. You **don't have to** be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.

MAY / MIGHT / COULD / MUST / CAN'T

10. Complete the sentences with *may/might/could/must* or *can't*:

1. That **can't** be Lee. He's too tall, and Lee hates baseball caps.
2. The operation was successful! You **must** be really pleased.
3. He's very ill. He **might** need a transplant. The doctor isn't sure.
4. It's still dark. It **can't** be 9 a.m.
5. He's wearing a white jacket. He **could** be a doctor.
6. I **may** see you later, it depends on the weather.
7. They've worked in London for ten years, so they **must** speak English.

11. Rewrite the sentences using the modal verbs in brackets:

1. It's OK to invite your friends over for supper. (can) **You can invite your friends over for supper.**
2. It's forbidden to smoke here. (mustn't) **You mustn't smoke here.**
3. It is compulsory for all swimmers to wear a cap. (must) **All swimmers must wear a cap.**
4. It isn't necessary to give up drinking coffee – just drink less. (don't have to) **You don't have to give up**
5. Under 18s aren't allowed to compete in most marathon races. (can't) **Under 18s can't compete in**
6. She didn't know how to swim till she was ten. (couldn't) **She couldn't swim till she was ten.**
7. It's not a good thing for me to do all my exam revision the night before. (shouldn't) **I shouldn't do all my exam revision the night before.**
8. They made my dad go running at school. (had to) **My dad had to go running at school.**

12. The following sentences do not make sense. Replace each modal in bold with a modal in bold from another sentence:

1. I **couldn't** remember exactly when the film starts, but I'll check. **can't**
2. We **shouldn't** take the bus. It'll be cheaper than paying for parking. **should**
3. I think I **don't have to** borrow my mum's car tonight, because she won't be using it. **will be able to**
4. John **should** go to the party. He hasn't decided yet. **might not**
5. You **will be able to** dress up for dinner tonight. It's fine to wear jeans and a T-shirt. **don't have to**
6. I **can't** concentrate earlier. I was distracted by all the noise. **couldn't**
7. You **might not** be so happy that you finally passed your driving test! **shouldn't**
8. You **must** go to that mechanic. He's not honest. **Shouldn't**

13. Rewrite the sentences with the affirmative or negative form of the modals in brackets.

1. It's not necessary for you to do all the exercises. (need) **You needn't do all the exercises.**
2. It's a good idea for people to have first-aid supplies in their car. (ought to) **People ought to have**
3. He couldn't complete the 10 km race. (be able to) **He wasn't able to complete the ...**
4. She must wake up very early tomorrow. (have to) **She has to wake up very early ...**
5. It's against the law to hoot near a hospital. (must) **You mustn't hoot near a hospital.**
6. There's a chance that we're moving to Liverpool. (may) **We may be moving to Liverpool.**
7. I'm not sure I'll have the information by tomorrow. (might) **I might not have the information ...**

MODALS AND MODAL PERFECTS

14. Choose the sentence that is closer in meaning to the original:

1. You could have written at least once.

a. You only had time to write once.

b. You didn't write at all.

2. I shouldn't have told her about the problem.

a. It was a bad idea to tell her.

b. I'm sorry I didn't tell her.

3. Angela isn't answering the phone. She must have already left.

a. I'm quite sure she left.

b. It's possible that she left.

4. Arnold and Debbie may have had an argument.

a. They don't look happy.

b. I heard them arguing.

5. I wouldn't have brought this heavy coat if I had known it was so warm.

a. I didn't know the weather would be so warm.

b. I thought it would be warm.

6. You needn't have called to tell me they were coming.

a. It's lucky you called.

b. I knew they were coming.

15. Write a sentence to logically follow each sentence below. Use the words provided and the modal perfects: *couldn't have / may have / must have / shouldn't have*.

1. Steve looks happy. The interview / go / well. **The interview must have gone well.**

2. You're right. It was a stupid thing to do. I / cheat / in the exam. **I shouldn't have cheated.**

3. They were professional car thieves. You / do anything / to prevent the theft. **You couldn't have done anything ...**

4. I have no idea where my bus card is. I / leave it / in my other bag. **I may have left it in my other bag.**

16. Complete the sentences with the modal perfects below and the correct form of the verbs in brackets: *shouldn't have / would have / must have / should have / needn't have / can't have / couldn't have / may have*.

1. Tina doesn't look happy. She **can't have heard** (hear) the good news.

2. I feel quite ill. I **shouldn't have eaten** (eat) so much.

3. Your speech was excellent. You **couldn't have been** (be) more convincing.

4. Check with Peter before you buy him that book. He **may have read** (read) it.

5. I **would have told** you, but they made me promise not to say anything.

6. We **needn't have come** (come) so early. The doctor isn't even here yet.

7. Ben can't unlock the door. He **must have lost** (lose) his keys again.

8. It's too late for me to come. You **should have come** (come) earlier.