

MODALS

Modals	Functions	Examples
Can	Ability	I can speak three languages.
	Requesting	Can I use your computer?
	Give and refuse permission Talking about permission (prohibition rule) Negative deduction	You can't drive beyond the speed limit You can wait in my office if you like. He can not be at home now. He is in Rabat.
	Make an offer	We can give you a lift. ~ Oh, that would be great. Thank you. Can I get a taxi for you? ~ Yes, please
Be able to	Ability in the present	It's nice to be able to go to the opera
	Ability in the past	Luckily Mark was able to get (OR succeeded in getting) the work done in time.
	Ability in the future	If we earn some money, we can go/we'll be able to go on holiday next summer. I'm afraid I can't come/I won't be able to come to the disco on Friday.
Could	Ability in the past	Mary could run faster when she was younger.
	Requesting assistance	Could I borrow your calculator? ~ Of course you can.
	Possibility	The story could be true, I suppose. (= Possibly it is true.) He could be inside, but I cannot see him.
	Past permission Talking about permission (rules) Negative deduction	In the 1920s you could drive without taking a test He could not know the answers; he has not read the book
Be allowed to (talking about permission)	Present permission Future permission	Passengers are allowed to take one bag onto the plane. Will I be allowed to record the interview on tape?

Have (got) to	Necessity in the present	.Mark has to get the car repaired. There's something wrong with the brakes.
	Obligation in the past	I have to exercise. (The doctor told me.). Emma had to go to the dentist yesterday, NOT She must go to the dentist yesterday.
	Necessity in the past and future	That wasn't very good. We'll have to do better next time
May	Possibility present and future	It may rain tomorrow.
	Give and refuse permission Asking for permission	You may go to the cafeteria to watch TV You may telephone from here, (a written notice) May I go out, please? Members may not bring more than two guests into the club
Might	Possibility present and future	Rita might come for dinner.
Must	Certainty	That must be Khalid's twin brother. He looks like him.
	Obligation/ necessity	You must give in your homework before Friday
Must not/	Prohibition (bad idea)	I mustn't forget my key, or I won't get in.
Needn't	Absence of obligation present	We needn't make sandwiches. There's a cafe.
	Absence of obligation past	We needn't have gone to the supermarket. We had already had a pizza for tonight.
Don't have to/ do not need to	Absence of obligation	You don't have to / don't need to wash those glasses. They're clean.
Should/ ought to	Advisability/Recommendation	You're not very well. Perhaps you should see a doctor. Your uncle was very kind to me. I ought to write him a letter of thanks
	Exception	She has been studying very hard; she should pass the exam.
	Asking for advice	Where should I put this picture, do you think? It's a difficult problem. How ought we to deal with it?
Had better	The best thing to do in a situation	It's cold. The children had better wear their coats.

Would	Polite request Preference	Would you like to lay the table for me? I would rather have a juice than coke.
	Invitation Conditional	Would like to come for dinner with us I would not do that if I were you.
Will	Intention Willingness Request /order Conditional	I will do it tomorrow. Ok! I will do my best to help you. Will you stop doing that? If you do not come to the party, I will be upset .
Shall	Offer/ suggestion	Shall I open the window?

MODALS

Sentences	Form	Meaning
He may have got lost. (= Perhaps he has got lost.) You might have left your keys at work. (= Perhaps you left them at work.) Someone could have stolen them. (= It is possible that someone stole them.)		
We could have gone out somewhere, but we were too tired. You were very lucky. There could have been a terrible accident.		
Daniel may not have caught the bus I might not have locked the door.		
Daniel couldn't have caught the bus		
My watch says it's only ten past two. It must have stopped.		
You've only spent five minutes on that job. You can't have done it properly		
We didn't play very well We should have played better It was a lovely old building. They shouldn't have knocked it down.		
I got lost. ~ Sorry. I ought to/should have drawn you a map.		

MODAL VERBS + PERFECT INFINITIVE (PI)

Form: MODAL + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

(jistotní modalita; epistemic modality)

- modal verbs + PI are often used:

- to refer to the **past**
- to refer to **unreal situations**
- to show that the activity was **different from what we wanted**
- to say **how confident** we are that something has happened

1. **MUST + PI:** expresses deduction, a logical conclusion, probability:

It is very cold; it must have snowed in the mountains.

I saw him leaving; he must have killed him.

X He had to kill him.

2. **CAN'T/COULDN'T + PI:** expresses negative deduction:

She can't have passed such a difficult exam.

CAN + PI: expresses impossibility or disbelief:

The boy can't have given a better answer than this one.

X He couldn't give..., X He wasn't able to give...

She can't have missed the bus.

3. **COULD + PI:**

You could have done it. (past reference: didn't do it)

X You could do it. (future reference: possibility)

4. **MAY + PI:** expresses the possibility that an action took place in the past:

The little girl may have lost the key. (It is possible that she lost the key.)
(with may - action is more probable than with might)

5. MIGHT + PI: expresses a past possibility

Our neighbours might have heard some noises when our car was stolen.

MIGHT + PI continuous: expresses a possible action wh. was continuing at a certain moment in the past:

The kids might have been watching a cartoon at that time.

6. NEEDN'T + PI: expresses an unnecessary action, which was, nevertheless, performed:

I needn't have knocked at the door since, in this way, I awoke the baby. (but I knocked)

You needn't have bought the flowers.

X didn't need to: show that the action was not necessary but it wasn't performed either:

I didn't need to knock at the door since it was open. (so I didn't knock)

7. SHOULD + PI: indicates that the past obligation was not fulfilled or carried out:

You should have locked the door before leaving the house. (But you didn't lock it.)

8. OUGHT TO + PI: expresses an unfulfilled duty or obligation:

Paul ought to have waited until the lights were green before he crossed the street. (But he didn't wait.)

9. WOULD + PI: 3rd conditional *I would have gone to university if my parents had had more money. (The speaker didn't go to university.)*

1. It may/could/must have been, etc

Look at each conversation and choose the best sentence, a) or b).

► Has the car broken down? ~ Well, we may have run out of petrol.

a) I'm sure there's no petrol left, b) I think there's no petrol left.

1 You could have had a free holiday. ~ Yes, we could, but the dates weren't convenient.

a) We had a free holiday, b) We didn't have a free holiday.

2 Did you record the programme? ~ I can't remember. I might not have done.

a) I'm not sure if I recorded it. b) I certainly didn't record it.

3 Can't you find that newspaper? ~ No, someone must have thrown it away.

a) It was necessary to throw it away, b) I realize now that it was thrown away.

2. Rewrite the sentences using the modal verbs in brackets.

1. It's possible that Jane will visit Switzerland next year. (could)

2. I'm thinking about taking Spanish lessons. (may)

3. I'm sure they'll be home by now. (must)

4. James definitely isn't eighteen yet! (can't)

5. It's possible the weather will be sunny tomorrow. (might)

6. I'm sure that Mrs Smith didn't leave home. (can't)

7. Mrs Smith ... Perhaps she's gone to stay with her mother. (might)

8. She ... It's possible that Mr Smith committed a crime. (may)

9. Mr Smith ... I'm certain that he buried something in the garden. (must) He ..

10. Perhaps he won the lottery. (could) He ...

11. I'm sure he bought a new car. (must) He ...

12. Perhaps Mr Smith murdered his wife. (might) Mr Smith ...

13. I'm sure she's at home. (must)

3. Rewrite the sentences using a modal verb.

1. It isn't necessary for you to take a jacket.
 2. I advise you to see a dentist.
 3. You aren't allowed to talk during the exam.
 4. It's forbidden to park here.
 5. I advise you to study harder.
 6. He is obliged to go to the police station twice a week.
 7. Tom knows how to speak Spanish.
 8. He had permission to go to the party.
 9. It isn't possible that that is our plane.
 10. It isn't necessary to take a thick coat.
 11. I wish I had paid for half of the meal, but I didn't.
 12. It was wrong of Mary to tell Steve about us.
 13. Perhaps Anita didn't get the text message.
 14. It's possible that they went to the cinema.
 15. It wasn't a good idea to ask the other couple to come with us.
 16. I am certain you haven't seen John because he is on a trip.
- You.

4. Use the appropriate modals and the appropriate form of the verbs between parenthesis

1. A: I saw a ghost last night. B: You (not see) a ghost; there aren't any ghosts. You (dream) it.
2. A: I've had a toothache for two days.
B: You (go) to the dentist when it started.
3. A: As I was standing in the hall your dog bit me.
B: It (not be) my dog; he was with me all day. It (be) my brother's dog.
4. A: I wonder why he didn't answer?
B: Possibly he didn't understand the question.
5. A: The plane is late; I wonder what has happened?
B: Possibly it was delayed by fog.
6. A: I waited from 8.00 to 8.30 under the clock and he says he waited from 8.00 to 8.30 under the clock, and we didn't see each other! B: You (wait) under different clocks! There are two in the station, you know.
7. We (start) yesterday (this was the plan); but the flight was cancelled because of the fog, so we're still here, as you see.
8. A: I left my car here under the NO Parking sign; and now it's gone. It (be) stolen!
B: Not necessarily. The police (drive) it away.
9. A: We've run out of petrol!
B: I'm not surprised. I noticed that the tank was nearly empty when we left home. A: You (tell) me! WE (get) petrol at the last village. Now we've got a 10-mile walk!
10. A: Look at this beautiful painting! Only a very great artist (paint) such a picture!
B: Nonsense! A child of five (paint) it with his eyes shut.
11. There is only one set of footprints, so the kidnapper (carry) his prisoner out. He not (do) it in daylight or he (be) seen. He (wait) till dark.

5. Rewrite the following sentences, providing the appropriate modal auxiliary without changing the original meaning of the sentence.

- 1-
It is possible that he is not at home.
- 2-
It is a pity that you have not brought your camera.
- 3-
I am sure they are not proud of their children.
- 4-
It was not necessary for her to come that early.

6. Use a suitable present or past modal auxiliary

1. I can't find my book. I (leave) it on the bus.
2. They do not answer their phone; they..... (go) away on their vacation.
3. John went to the movies last night, but he.....(stay) at home and (prepare) his lessons.
4. The lights have gone out. A fuse.....(blow).
5. She(go) to school. It is Saturday.
6. You were stupid to go skiing here. You (break) your leg.
7. She(sing) like an angel when she was a kid.
8.I (make) a suggestion?
9. You(go) and see "Batman". It is a great film.
10. He came home alone. You (let) him do that; he(get) lost.

MODALS

1. Choose the correct modal

1. They (may/must)..... be away for the weekend but I'm not sure.
2. He (can/could)..... be French, judging by his accent.
3. They (can't/may)..... still be out!
4. With luck, tomorrow (can't/could)..... be a sunny day.
5. You (can/might)..... be right but I'm going to check anyway.
6. The exam (can't/might)..... be easy. You never know.
7. It (may/can't)..... be true about a sauropod dinosaur living in Lake Telé in the Congo. It's impossible.
8. Dave reckons she's from The States but I think she (can't/might)..... be from Scandinavia.
9. I (can't/might)..... go to the party but I'm not sure yet.
10. This (must/could)..... be the right answer but we'll have to check with your teacher to make sure.
11. She (can't/could)..... steal things from shops. She's rich and famous.
12. I really think Real Madrid (can't/could)..... lose the final of the King's Cup.
13. She's been revising 10 hours a day for 3 weeks. She (could/must)..... be exhausted.
14. Nobody's answering. They (can't/must)..... be out.
15. He (can't/may)..... be from the USA. He doesn't speak English.

2. Rewrite the sentences with can, may, must or have to.

Is it all right if I borrow your pen? May/Can I borrow your pen?

Don't park your car on bends. It is illegal.

You

Perhaps she will agree with it. Who knows?

She

Our teacher asked us to tidy the classroom.

We

I need your help. It's too much work for me. You

Look at that balloon. It's over there. see ?

Don't worry about dinner. I'll make it. You

It is not necessary to be there. We

Why don't you stay with us? No problem!

You

3. Fill in the blanks with the positive or negative form of can, could or be able to. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Can / Could you please help me wash the car?
2. I go to Greece for my holiday. What do you think?
3. We visit him next week.
4. Jessica speak French and also Italian.
5. You drink beer! You're not 18 yet.
6. I decide whether he's telling the truth.
7. She finish painting the room by tomorrow. She's too busy.
8. He take my car and bring it back later.
9. We sleep. You are making too much noise.
10. We almost had an accident, but fortunately, the driver stop in time.
11. I see you tomorrow because I'm going away.

12. Luckily, the firemen _____ rescue the family from the burning building.

4. Fill in the blanks with the positive or negative form of may or might.

1. Mum said you may / might want me to do some shopping for you today.
2. Students _____ bring any books into the exam room.
3. Passengers _____ smoke in the toilets.
4. She looked like she _____ fall. So I held her arm.
5. We _____ as well invite friends over if we can't go out tonight.
6. Pupils _____ leave the school grounds during school hours.
7. You _____ like to visit the Prado while you're in Madrid.
8. _____ I hang my hat here, please?
9. _____ I open the window?

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of have to. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. I had to take an earlier flight. The later one was full.
2. I _____ go shopping yesterday. There was no food in the house.
3. I _____ try and eat less sugar. I'm having trouble with my teeth.
4. Jim _____ see the dentist on Friday. He doesn't receive patients on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
5. I _____ put on sunscreen lotion when I'm out in the sun.
6. The prime minister _____ resign. He's involved in too many scandals.
7. Workers in this factory _____ wear hard hats.
8. We _____ leave now. It's already eight o'clock and the baby is restless.
9. We _____ go to bed early tonight. We are leaving at 5.30 tomorrow morning.
10. You _____ send her flowers, even if you can't go to her dinner party.

6. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of mustn't or don't have to / needn't. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. Pupils needn't / don't have to attend the game. It's optional.
2. You _____ leave knives in places where babies can get hold of them.
3. We _____ bring sandwiches. Food will be provided.
4. You _____ play with the knife! You'll cut yourself.
5. You _____ rush. We've got plenty of time.
6. We _____ allow the killing of tigers to continue.
7. If the snow continues, you _____ go to school tomorrow.
8. She _____ worry. I'll see that her luggage is picked up.
9. I _____ pay the telephone bill until next week.
10. People _____ smoke in non-smoking areas.

7. Fill in the blanks with the positive or negative form of should or ought to.

1. People should check their tires frequently.
2. You _____ tell him all your problems when he is feeling so ill.
3. Jerry _____ be here by now. He said he'd leave his house at 8.30.
4. You really _____ bite your nails. It's a disgusting habit.

8. Fill in the blanks with the positive or negative form of will, would or shall.

1. She won't arrive until much later. There's no point in waiting.
2. _____ you please put out your cigarette? Smoking is forbidden here.
3. The kettle's boiling. I _____ make the coffee!

4. Susan accept my apology even though I admitted my mistake.
5. you like me to call the doctor for you?
6. Helen come to the party. She promised to do so.
7. you mind if I left work early today?
8. As a child I often sit by my window, daydreaming.
9. We were informed that she be on the London flight.
10. You look cold. I get you a sweater?

9. Rephrase the following sentences using the given modal verbs:

A - Should / Ought to (giving advice)

1 – You'd better get up earlier.

You

2 – If I were you, I would study that more carefully.

You

3 – You'd rather behave differently.

You

4 – Why don't you ask your parents for permission?

You

5 – It is advisable for her to arrive home earlier.

She

B - Can / Could (expressing capacity / ability)

1 – I know how to operate a computer.

I

2 – She is able to play the piano wonderfully.

She

3 – They managed to fix the TV.

They

4 – They weren't successful in cheating the teacher.

They

C - May / Might (asking for and expressing permission / possibility / remote probability)

1 – Am I allowed to go now?

?

2 – Students are not permitted to walk in the corridors during classes.

Students

3 – It is possible that he is right.

He

4 – Perhaps it will rain later.

It

5 – He is not likely to get the job.

He

6 - It is just probable that the telephone is out of order.

The telephone

D - Must (expressing necessity / obligation / logical conclusion)

Mustn't (expressing prohibition / absence of permission)

1 – They have to book their seats in advance.

They

2 – You need to wash your teeth more often.

You

3 – In some schools pupils are obliged to wear uniforms.

In some schools pupils

4 – He has got a good car. For sure he is rich.

He _____ because he has got a good car.

5 – You are forbidden to park your car here.

You

6 – She is not allowed to wear her mother's clothes.

She

E - Need (expressing necessity / absence of necessity)

1 – You are not obliged to say anything.

You

2 – As tomorrow is Sunday, there is no need for me to get up early.

As tomorrow is Sunday, I

3 – Is it necessary for her to decide immediately?

10. Choose the most appropriate modal.

1. My son be home by now. Where can he be?

a. Have to b. would c. should d. could

2. I think your thumb is broken. You go to the emergency room.

a. might b. could c. ought to d. can

3. If you are interested in losing weight, you try this new diet.

a. could b. mustn't c. had to d. have got to

4. Johnnie's fallen down the stairs! I call an ambulance?

a. Should b. Can c. May d. Ought

5. You come too early. We won't leave until nine o'clock.

a. haste b. must c. needn't d. can't

6. The train was badly damaged in the crash, but the passengers get out through a broken window.

a. can b. had to c. ought to d. were able to

7. Children be accompanied by an adult at the zoo.

a. ought b. must c. would d. mustn't

8. You talk during tests. It's forbidden.

a. don't have to b. mustn't c. couldn't d. ought to

9. I can feel the heat. We be near the fire.

a. can b. would c. must d. have to

10. They hear him because he was whispering.

a. wouldn't b. mustn't c. shouldn't d. couldn't

11. You've never heard of the Beatles! You be serious!

a. must b. had to c. can't d. shouldn't

12. you like to have dinner with me tonight?

a. Could b. May c. Should d. Would

13. You let him hear about the party tomorrow. It's a surprise!

a. mustn't b. wouldn't c. couldn't d. can't

14. speak to the Chief of Police, please?

a. Must b. May I c. Would I d. Am I able to

15. I crashed into a wall, but luckily I force open the car door and escape.

a. would be able to b. could c. had to d. was able to

11. Rewrite the following sentences using modals. Do not change the meaning of the original sentences. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. If you want my advice, get a good lawyer!

2. A university degree isn't necessary for that job.
3. He can only leave work at ten o'clock tonight.
4. Perhaps my father will pick you up.
5. It isn't necessary to make an appointment at the hairdresser's.
6. Eating is forbidden in class.
7. The boss allows the workers to have one afternoon off a week.
8. Don't take the CD without asking permission.
9. My car needs cleaning. I'll take it tomorrow.
10. Do you want to go to St Motriz this winter?
11. She hasn't phoned. Perhaps she is abroad.
12. Perhaps Mike will be too busy to see us.
13. I expect her to pass her driving test. She drives well.
14. I suggest you go and see a doctor.
15. It puzzles me why he hasn't come to visit.

12. Rewrite the sentences using the modal verbs in brackets.

1. It's possible that Jane will visit Switzerland next year. (could)
2. I'm thinking about taking Spanish lessons. (may)
3. I'm sure they'll be home by now. (must)
4. James definitely isn't eighteen yet! (can't)
5. It's possible the weather will be sunny tomorrow. (might)
6. I'm sure that Mrs Smith didn't leave home. (can't)
7. Mrs Smith ... Perhaps she's gone to stay with her mother. (might)
8. She ... It's possible that Mr Smith committed a crime. (may)
9. Mr Smith ... I'm certain that he buried something in the garden. (must) He ..
10. Perhaps he won the lottery. (could) He ...
11. I'm sure he bought a new car. (must) He ...
12. Perhaps Mr Smith murdered his wife. (might) Mr Smith ...
13. I'm sure she's at home. (must)

12. Rewrite the sentences using a modal verb.

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12. It was wrong of Mary to tell Steve about us.
13. Perhaps Anita didn't get the text message.
14. It's possible that they went to the cinema.
15. It wasn't a good idea to ask the other couple to come with us.
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You.

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S2/GRAMMAR 2