

GRAMMAR PRACTICE B1

MODAL VERBS

1. Explanation + Uses of Each Modal Verb

1. CAN

Meaning: ability, possibility, permission, requests

Uses:

- Ability in the present → I can swim.
- Permission → Can I leave early?
- Possibility (informal) → It can break easily.
- Requests → Can you help me?

2. COULD

Meaning: past ability, polite permission, polite request, possibility

Uses:

- Past ability → When I was 10, I could run fast.
- Polite or formal permission → Could I borrow your car?
- Polite request → Could you explain that?
- Possibility → It could rain later.

3. MAY

Meaning: permission (formal), possibility

Uses:

- Formal permission → You may enter the room.
- Possibility → It may snow tomorrow.

4. MIGHT

Meaning: weak possibility

Uses:

- Weak possibility → I might go to the party. (less certain than may)

5. MUST

Meaning: strong obligation, necessity, logical deduction

Uses:

- Strong obligation → You must wear a seatbelt.
- Necessity → I must finish this today.
- Deduction → He must be tired. (I'm sure)

6. HAVE TO

Meaning: external obligation, necessity

Uses:

- External rule/requirement → I have to work at 8 AM.
- Necessity → We have to hurry.

7. NEED TO

Meaning: necessity

Uses:

- Necessary action → You need to study more.
- Absence of necessity (negative) → You don't need to come.

8. SHOULD

Meaning: advice, recommendation, mild obligation, expectation

Uses:

- Advice → You should drink more water.
- Mild obligation → You should respect your parents.
- Expectation → She should be home by now.

9. WOULD

Meaning: polite requests, hypothetical situations, preferences, repeated past actions

Uses:

- Polite request → Would you help me?
- Hypothetical → I would travel if I had money.
- Preferences → I would rather stay home.
- Past repeated actions → When I was young, we would visit my grandma every Sunday.

2. Match the modal verb with its use

Write the correct modal verb next to each description.

(can, could, may, might, must, have to, need to, should, would)

1. _____ = strong obligation
2. _____ = weak possibility
3. _____ = advice
4. _____ = present ability
5. _____ = polite request
6. _____ = past ability
7. _____ = external rule/requirement
8. _____ = formal permission
9. _____ = hypothetical situation
10. _____ = necessary action

3. Fill each sentence with the appropriate modal verb.

(Sometimes more than one answer is possible.)

1. I ___ speak four languages.
2. You ___ wear a helmet; it's the law.
3. ___ you open the window, please?
4. She ___ be at home, but I'm not sure.
5. When I was little, I ___ climb trees easily.
6. You ___ see a doctor; that cough sounds bad.
7. We ___ leave early tomorrow because of the traffic.
8. He ___ be the new manager — he looks very young.
9. You ___ come if you don't want to; it's optional.
10. ___ I borrow your phone for a second?
11. If I had more time, I ___ learn Japanese.
12. It's dark; the storm ___ start soon.
13. Visitors ___ show their ID cards at the entrance.
14. You ___ not smoke in this building.
15. She ___ play the piano very well.
16. You ___ try this restaurant; it's excellent.
17. Students ___ submit the form before Monday.
18. I'm not sure, but she ___ know the answer.
19. He ___ go to bed earlier if he wants to feel better.
20. They ___ be tired after such a long trip.

4. Rewrite the sentences using a modal verb

Rewrite each sentence with the modal that matches the meaning.

Example:

It is necessary for you to study more. → You need to study more.

1. It's possible that he will call tonight.
2. It's not allowed to eat in class.
3. I advise you to relax more.
4. I was able to finish the project yesterday.
5. I am almost sure she is angry.
6. I request you politely to follow me.
7. It is necessary for us to wear uniforms.
8. I wish to refuse politely. ("I prefer not to...")
9. It's possible but not likely that they will come.
10. If I had the money, I would buy that car.

5. Choose the correct option

1. You (should / must / could) save your work often to avoid losing it.
2. She (may / must / should) be at work; her car is gone.
3. (Can / Would / Must) you like some help with that?
4. You (don't need to / mustn't / shouldn't) pay; it's free.
5. He (can / could / might) fix it if you ask him nicely.
6. I (would / can / should) love to visit Japan someday.
7. You (must / might / could) not enter without a ticket.
8. If I were you, I (would / can / may) apologise.
9. We (must / might / would) be quiet; the baby is sleeping.
10. She (must / might / could) be sick — she never misses class.

6. Create your own sentences

Write 1 original sentence for each modal verb:

- CAN: _____
- COULD: _____
- MAY: _____
- MIGHT: _____
- MUST: _____
- HAVE TO: _____
- NEED TO: _____
- SHOULD: _____
- WOULD: _____