

Modal Auxiliaries (can, may, must, should, could, would, might)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Modal helping verbs add MEANING to a main verb. 'Can' = able to. 'May/might' = possibly. 'Must' = have to (strong rule). 'Should' = advice/recommendation. 'Could/would' = polite or possible.

PRACTICE

Each item names the MEANING you need (rule, possibility, ability, advice, permission, polite request, past ability). Choose the modal that best matches that meaning. Every option is a real modal — pick the one whose meaning fits.

1. Choose the modal that shows a STRICT RULE: You ____ wear a helmet when you ride on city streets.
 - A. could
 - B. should
 - C. might
 - D. must
2. Choose the modal that politely asks PERMISSION: ____ I borrow your pencil, please?
 - A. Must
 - B. Should
 - C. May
 - D. Would
3. Choose the modal that shows POSSIBILITY: It looks cloudy. It ____ rain later today.
 - A. might
 - B. should
 - C. must
 - D. would
4. Choose the modal that shows ABILITY: Lin is only seven, but she ____ already solve big puzzles.
 - A. should
 - B. can
 - C. must
 - D. would



- 5. Choose the modal that gives ADVICE: You ____ finish your homework before you watch TV.
 - A. might
 - B. could
 - C. would
 - D. should

- 6. Choose the modal that shows PAST ABILITY: When my dad was a boy, he ____ run a mile in seven minutes.
 - A. could
 - B. can
 - C. might
 - D. must

- 7. Choose the modal that makes a POLITE REQUEST: ____ you please pass me the salt?
 - A. Must
 - B. Should
 - C. Would
 - D. Might

- 8. Fill in the blank with the best modal: Drivers ____ stop at red lights — it is the law.
Answer: _____

- 9. Which sentence uses a modal correctly?
 - A. She must to clean her room.
 - B. She must clean her room.
 - C. She musts clean her room.
 - D. She is must clean her room.

- 10. Write one sentence using the modal 'might' to describe something that could happen this weekend.



Answer Keys

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|---|---|
| <p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> | <p>6 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="must"/></p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>10 <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="See below"/></p> |
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| Explanations | |
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| 1. D | 'Must' = strict obligation/rule. 'Could' suggests it's optional or past ability; 'should' is a recommendation, not a rule; 'might' shows possibility, not requirement. All four are grammatical — only 'must' matches the meaning 'strict rule'. |
| 2. C | 'May I...?' is the standard polite request for permission. 'Must I' asks if it's required; 'Should I' asks for advice; 'Would I' is used for hypotheticals, not permission requests. |
| 3. A | 'Might' = possibly. 'Should' = expectation/advice; 'must' = certainty or rule; 'would' = hypothetical. Only 'might' fits 'maybe it will rain'. |
| 4. B | 'Can' = is able to. 'Should' = ought to; 'must' = is required to; 'would' = hypothetical/polite. Only 'can' matches 'is able'. |
| 5. D | 'Should' = advice/expectation. 'Might' = possibility; 'could' = it's an option; 'would' = hypothetical. Only 'should' tells the listener what is the right thing to do. |
| 6. A | 'Could' = past ability (was able to). 'Can' is present ability; 'might' is possibility; 'must' is obligation — none describe a past skill. |
| 7. C | 'Would you please... ' is the most polite request. 'Must you' sounds demanding; 'Should you' asks for advice about the listener; 'Might you' is rare and old-fashioned in everyday speech. |
| 8. must | A law is a STRICT requirement, so 'must'. Accept: 'must'. Common wrong answers and why: 'should' (advice, weaker than a law); 'can' (ability, not required); 'may' (permission/possibility, not a rule); 'might' (possibility — drivers don't 'might' stop at lights, they have to). |
| 9. B | Modals are followed by the BARE verb (no 'to' and no -s). A wrongly adds 'to'; C wrongly adds -s to the modal; D wrongly adds 'is' before the modal. Only B has the modal + bare verb pattern. |
| 10. | Answer: Example: I might go to the library on Saturday. Sentence must contain 'might' + bare verb AND show possibility (not certainty). Mark wrong: 'I might to go' (extra 'to'); 'I mights go' (modal with -s); 'I might going' (verb-ing instead of bare verb); 'I will might go' (two modals stacked). |



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