

# 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.

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## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8
- 9  A  B  C  D
- 10

### Explanations

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.	<b>Answer:</b> 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).

