Worksheet - 2 Modals

Can, can’t, could, couldn’t, was / were able to, managed to

- can (and sometimes be able to) – natural or learned ability
- could, couldn’t, was able – general ability in the past
- was able to / managed to, couldn’t (but not could) – the successful completion of a specific action

Finish the sentences:

1. A good runner ______ run the race in under four minutes.
2. Bill is so unfit he ________ run at all.
3. Our baby is only nine months and he _______ already stand up.
4. When I was younger, I __________ speak Italian much better than I _________ now.
5. _____ she speak German very well? – No, she ________ speak German at all.
6. He __________ draw or paint when he was a boy, but now he’s a famous artist.
7. After weeks of training, I __________ swim much faster.
8. It took a long time but in the end Tony ________ save enough to buy his own hi-fi.
10. For days the rescuers looked for the lost climbers in the snow. On the fourth day they saw them and ___________ reach them without too much trouble.

Verbs of perception – something happening now

- progressive is not possible, we can use: I see a bird in that tree. / I can see a bird ….

Rewrite these sentences using can, can’t, could, couldn’t:

1. Do you see that man over there?
2. I smell something burning.
3. I understood what he said.
4. Did you understand what he said?
5. I don’t see anyone.
6. I didn’t understand what he said.

Asking for permission

Put the following sentences in the right order from the most informal to the most polite:

1. May I borrow your pen?
2. Can I borrow your pen?
3. Might I borrow your pen?
4. Could I borrow your pen?
**Expressing probation / permission**

- may/ may not ; can / cannot; be / not to be allowed to; mustn’t

Rephrase these notices to give or refuse permission starting with You:

1. Thank you for not smoking = You may not smoke here.
2. No camping or picnicking
3. Fishing strictly forbidden
4. Campers welcome
5. Private – Keep out
6. Do not lean out of the window
7. No stopping

**Must v. have to**

- I’ve got a terrible pain in my back. I must go and see the doctor. (=I think it is necessary)
  x I have to go and see the doctor at 9 tomorrow. (= I have got an appointment)

**Fill in ‘must’ or ‘have to’:**

1. I couldn’t go to the party last night because I __________ to babysit for my sister.
2. I __________ get up early tomorrow morning. I want to start working earlier and have more free time in the afternoon.
3. I __________ get up early tomorrow morning. I need to catch the 5.30 train.
4. You __________ get a visa to visit the United States.
5. Annie will __________ do her homework again.
6. It’s getting very late. We __________ go now.
7. I __________ stay in bed yesterday because I wasn’t very well.
8. I don’t like __________ work at weekends.

**Obligation and necessity**

**Choose the correct form:**

1. You mustn’t / don’t have to open the door before the train stops. You could fall out.
2. You mustn’t / don’t have to hurry. We’ve got plenty of time.
3. We mustn’t / haven’t got to make any noise going into the house. It’s very late and everybody is asleep.
4. You mustn’t / needn’t tell Nicki about the party. I’ve already told her.
5. I mustn’t / haven’t got to go now. I can stay a bit longer if you want me to.
Summary

1. Decide if the following sentences are right or wrong. Correct the mistakes – either in form or meaning:

   1. The manager was very busy so we couldn’t talk to him for long.
   2. She can English very well.
   3. I’d like to can speak at least two foreign languages fluently.
   4. Although I hurt my leg I managed to swim back to the boat.
   5. Could I ask you a personal question?
   6. You mustn’t wash up. I’ve already done it.
   7. I’ll must work late tomorrow.
   9. She ought to study harder if she wants to pass the test.
   10. Did you have to sell the car?

2. Choose the correct alternative:

   1. You don’t need to / mustn’t stay here. You can do the work at home easily if you have a computer.
   2. I’ve had an email about a training day on Monday. Do you think I must / ought to take my laptop? – Well, you mustn’t / don’t have to. But I always take mine, just in case I need it.
   3. Where’s John? – I don’t know. He hasn’t probably read the email yet. He must be / should be here.
   4. Have you seen Carol? – Yes, an hour ago. – Well, she isn’t in the office. – She can / might be in the canteen.
   5. Nobody wanted to buy the house but finally they could / managed to sell it.
   6. Well, I’m not sure what exactly happened but it might / must be true.
   7. I have to hurry. I have a job interview. – Oh, you can’t / mustn’t be late then.
   8. I think you should apply for the job. You must / might enjoy it.

3. Make true sentences about yourself:

   1. I should _________________________________________________________
   2. I must __________________________________________________________
   3. I don’t have to ___________________________________________________
   4. I needn’t _________________________________________________________
   5. I could _________________________ when I was five years old.
   6. I have to _________________________________________________________