

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.
9. Did you buy any fresh fish in the market? – No, I _____ get any.
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.
8. Excuse me, sir. You needn't park here. It's forbidden.
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 _____