

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

The verbs **must, can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should** and **ought (to)** are *modal verbs*. They express meanings such as obligation, necessity, certainty, ability, possibility, lack of necessity, offers, suggestions, requests, logical assumptions, permission, prohibition, advice and criticism.

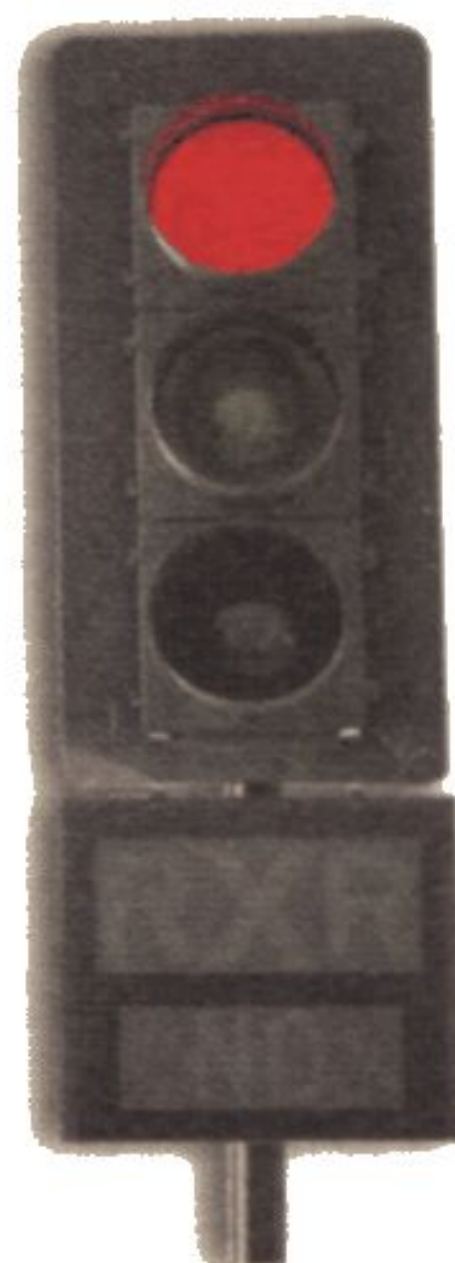
Modal verbs:

- ◆ do not take an **-s, -ing** or **-ed** suffix. e.g. *She must study.* (NOT: ~~She musts study.~~)
- ◆ are followed by a **bare infinitive** except for **ought** which is followed by a **to - infinitive**. e.g. *He may be ill.* (NOT: ~~He may to be ill.~~) *She ought to listen to you.*
- ◆ go before the subject in questions and are followed by **not** in negations. e.g. *Can I talk to you?* *He couldn't speak.*
- ◆ do not usually have tenses. They can refer to the present or the future. e.g. *You can call now.* (present) *You can call tomorrow.* (future)

Must

- ◆ **obligation - necessity - duty**
must = It is your duty to do sth/you are obliged to do sth

You **must** stop when the traffic light is red. (= You are obliged to stop when the traffic light is red.)



- ◆ **prohibition**
mustn't/can't = It's forbidden to do sth/you are not allowed to do sth/it is against the rules / law

You **mustn't/can't** park here. (= You are not allowed to park here. It's against the law.)



- ◆ **strong advice**
must = I strongly advise you to do sth/

You **must** behave yourself at school.

(= You really should behave yourself at school, or you'll get into trouble.)



- ◆ **logical assumptions**
a) **positive logical assumptions**
must = I am sure/certain

b) For negative logical assumptions we usually use **can't**.



- a) They **must** be the boy's parents. (I'm sure they are the boy's parents.)
- b) They **can't** be the boy's grandparents. (I'm sure they are not the boy's grandparents.)

- ◆ **Must** can only be used to talk about the present or near future. We use **have to** when we need to use other tenses.

e.g. He **had to** work late yesterday, so he **didn't** go to the party.

present simple = *must/have to*
past simple = *had to*
present perfect = *have/has had to*
future simple = *must/will have to*

Must - Have to/ Have got to

- ◆ **must = it is necessary to do sth**
We use **must** when the speaker decides that something is necessary.



I must find a hotel to stay at tonight.

(The young man has made the decision himself.)

- ◆ **have to = it is necessary to do sth**
We use **have to** when somebody else other than the speaker has made the decision.

I have to wear a uniform at work.

(Somebody else has made the decision.)



Questions and negations with **have to** are formed with **do, does** or **did**.

- ◆ **Must** and **have to** have different meanings in questions.

Compare the following examples:



Must I do my homework now?

(The boy wants to know whether his mother insists on his doing his homework right away.)



Do I have to type these letters now?

(The secretary wants to know whether it is necessary for her to type the letters right away.)

- ◆ **Have got to** has the same meaning as **have to**, and it is usually used in everyday speech.
e.g. 'Sorry! I've got to go now. My bus leaves in a few minutes.'

Mustn't - Needn't/ Don't have to

- ◆ **mustn't = it is forbidden to do sth/you are not allowed to do sth**
We use **mustn't** to express prohibition.

*They mustn't play on the railway track.
(Playing on the railway track is forbidden.)*



- ◆ **needn't = it isn't necessary to do sth**
We use **needn't** to express lack of necessity. We can also use **don't/doesn't need to** or **don't/doesn't have to** for the same purpose.

The farmer needn't/doesn't need to/doesn't have to buy any eggs. (= It isn't necessary for the farmer to buy any eggs.)



1

Fill in the gaps with **mustn't** or **needn't/don't have to**.

- A: Shall I help you with your shopping?
B: No, you ...*needn't/don't have to*. I can manage by myself.
- A: You play football inside the house.
B: I'm sorry. I'll go outside.
- A: Do you want anything from the supermarket?
B: No, you get me anything today, thank you. I'm going out myself later.
- A: You be late for work tomorrow morning.
B: I know. I'll try to arrive early.
- A: You take these books out of the library.
B: I know. It's forbidden.
- A: Shall I make an appointment for you at the dentist's?
B: No, you I'll do it myself next week.

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2

Rephrase the following sentences using **must, mustn't, needn't, has to or doesn't have to**.

- 1 You aren't allowed to park your car in the college car park.
...You mustn't park your car in the college car park....
- 2 I strongly advise you to speak to your parents about your decision.
- 3 It isn't necessary for Emma to attend tomorrow's staff meeting.
- 4 Jack is obliged to wear a suit and a tie at work because the manager says so.
- 5 I'm sure Antonio is from Milan.
- 6 It's necessary for Roger to find a job soon.
.....
- 7 It's forbidden to use mobile phones inside the hospital.
.....
- 8 Susan is obliged to work overtime because her boss says so.

Didn't need to - Needn't have done

lack of necessity

◆ **didn't need to + infinitive = it was not necessary to do sth**

It shows that an action did not happen in the past because we knew it was not necessary.

*They didn't need to cut any more wood.
(=It wasn't necessary for them to cut any more wood, so they didn't).*



◆ **needn't have + past participle = it was not necessary to do sth, but it was done**

It shows that an action happened in the past, even though it was not necessary.

You needn't have bought me a gift.

(= It wasn't necessary for him to buy her a gift, but he did.)



3

Rephrase the following sentences using **didn't need to or needn't have done**.

- 1 It wasn't necessary for him to wash the car. It wasn't dirty.
...He didn't need to wash the car.....
- 2 It wasn't necessary for her to buy so many oranges, but she did.
.....
- 3 It wasn't necessary for us to take an umbrella. It wasn't raining.
.....
- 4 It wasn't necessary for us to turn on the light. It wasn't dark.
.....
- 5 It wasn't necessary for him to call me today, but he did.
.....
- 6 It wasn't necessary for you to make sandwiches for me, but you did.
.....
- 7 It wasn't necessary for them to make reservations at the restaurant, but they did.
.....

4

Rewrite the sentences using the word in bold.

- 1 It isn't necessary for Mark to buy new clothes for the reception.
need *...Mark doesn't need to/needn't buy new clothes for the reception.....*
- 2 You aren't allowed to pick these flowers.
must
- 3 Sarah is obliged to type her compositions at university.
has
- 4 It wasn't necessary for Paula to make the beds.
need
- 5 It is your duty to obey the law.
must
- 6 It wasn't necessary for Bob to wait for me, but he did.
need
- 7 It is forbidden to throw litter on the beach.
must
- 8 I'm sure Ronald is at home.
must
- 9 It wasn't necessary for Alice to bake a cake for the party.
need
- 10 It wasn't necessary for George to stay at work late last night, but he did.
have

Can/Could

- ◆ **ability in the present**
can = I am able to

He **can** fly an aeroplane.



- ◆ **ability in the past**
could = used to be able to (past repeated action)

I **could** ski very well when I was young.



- ◆ **asking permission**
Can/Could/May/Might I ...? = Do you/Would you mind if ...?
We use these structures to ask permission to do something. **Could** and **may** are more polite than **can**. **Might** is formal.

a) (informal)

Can I go swimming?

No, you can't.



b) (more formal)

Could/May/Might I have a look at this report?

Certainly.



We normally reply with 'Certainly.'/'Of course.'/'Why not.'/'No, I'm afraid you can't.'

- ◆ **giving/refusing permission**
a) **can/may = you are allowed to do sth**
May is more formal than **can**.

- b) **can't/mustn't/may not = you are not allowed to do sth**
May not is formal and is usually used in written notices.

You **can't** see Kim tonight, but you **can** see her tomorrow if you like.

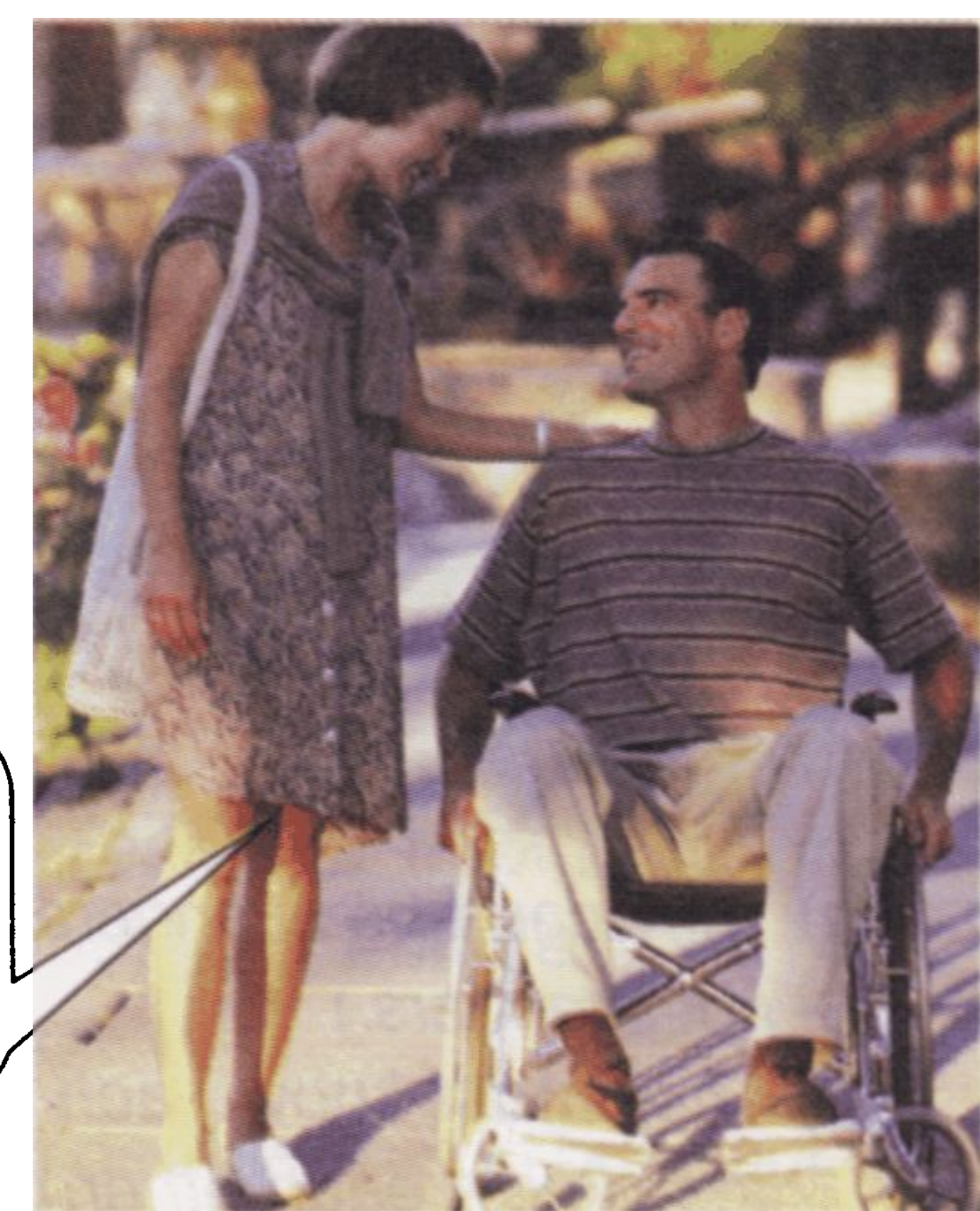


YOU MAY NOT LEAVE YOUR LUGGAGE HERE.



- ◆ **offers**
Can/Could/Shall I ...? = Would you like me to ...?
We use these structures when we offer to do something.

Can/Could/Shall I get you anything from the supermarket?



- ◆ **suggestions**
We can/could .../Shall we ...? = Let's .../How about ...?/What about ...?/Why don't we ...?

What shall we do tonight?

We **can/could** go to the cinema.



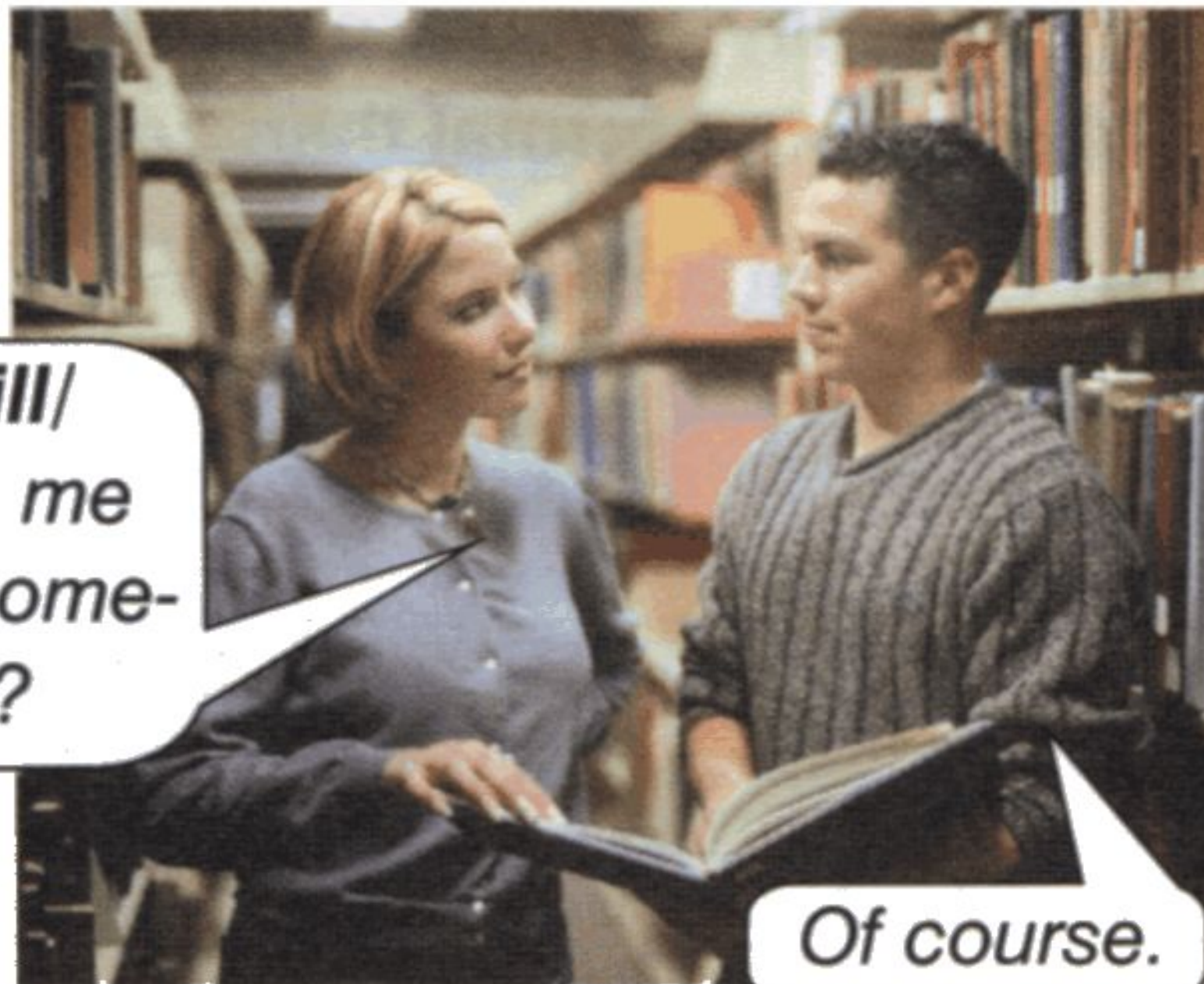
UNIT 5 Modal Verbs

◆ **requests**

Can/Could/Will/Would you ...?

We use these structures when we ask somebody to do something for us. *Would* and *could* are more polite than *can* and *will*.

Can/Could/Will/Would you help me with my French homework please?



Of course.

We normally reply with 'Certainly'/'Of course'/'I'm sorry, but I can't.'

◆ **negative logical assumptions**

can't = I'm sure/certain that sth isn't true/real, etc.

For positive logical assumptions we do not use *can't*; we use *must*.



a) They **can't** be strangers. (= I'm sure they are not strangers.)

b) They **must** know each other. (= I'm certain they know each other.)

◆ **possibility**

a) **could/may/might + present infinitive = it is possible/it is likely/perhaps**

John is late.

He could be stuck in traffic.



b) **could/might + perfect infinitive = it was possible, but it didn't happen**



Yesterday, there was a terrible accident.

The driver **could have been** killed. (Luckily, he wasn't.)

◆ **Can** is used in the present. **Could** is the past tense of *can*. We use **be able to** to form all the other tenses.

e.g. *I will be able to get a job when I finish school.*

present simple: *can, am/is/are able to*

past simple: *could, was/were able to*

present perfect: *have/has been able to*

past perfect: *had been able to*

future simple: *will be able to*

future perfect: *will have been able to*

5

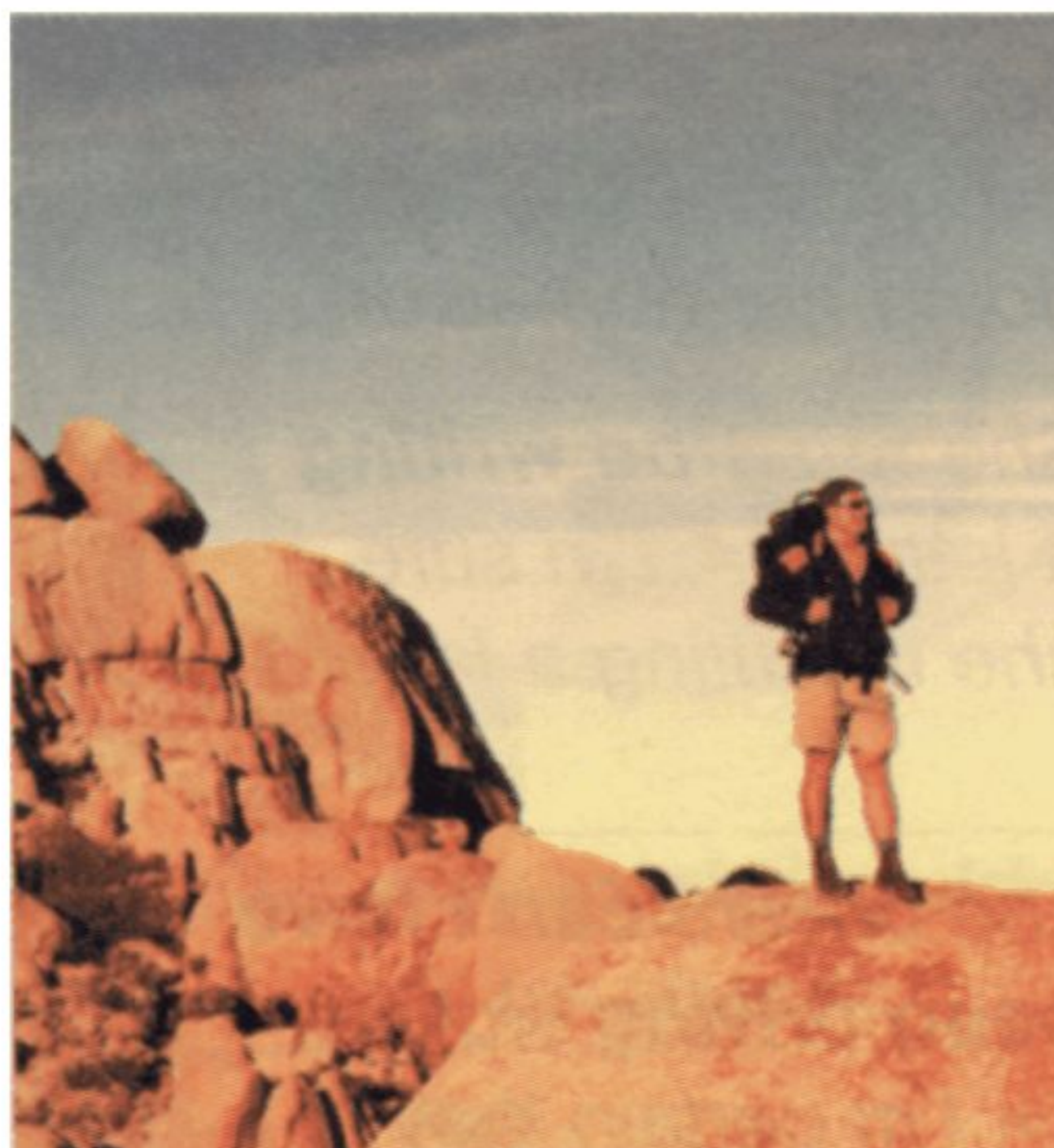
Fill in the gaps with an appropriate modal verb. Then, say what they express in each sentence.

- A: ...*May/Can/Could*... I borrow your pen, please?
The speaker is asking for permission.
B: No, you I'm using it.
- A: I'm bored. What shall we do?
B: We go for a walk.
A: No, we because it's raining.
B: Let's watch a video, then.
- A: My parents told me I go to the party tonight.
B: Never mind, I go either. We stay at home together, though.
- A: Sir, I speak to you for a moment, please?
B: Certainly, but later today; I'm busy now.
- A: Excuse me?
B: Yes?
A: you tell me where the post office is, please?
B: Certainly. It's on the main road, next to the school.
- A: Is anyone sitting on that chair?
B: No, you take it if you want to.

Could - Was able to

◆ **ability in the past**

We use **was/were able to** (=managed to do) to show that someone had the ability to do something in a particular situation in the past (past single action).



He **was able to climb** to the top of the mountain.
(= He managed to climb to the top of the mountain.)

◆ We use **could** to show that someone had the ability to do something repeatedly in the past (past repeated action).

e.g. He **could** run very fast when he was young.
(He had the ability to do this repeatedly in the past.)

◆ We use **could** rather than **was/were able to** with the verbs **see, hear, feel, smell, taste, understand, remember** and **guess**.

e.g. They **could see** the storm coming.
(NOT: ~~They were able to see...~~)

◆ We use the negative form **couldn't** for both cases.

e.g. My little sister **couldn't** wash herself when she was two. (past repeated action)
Mark tried, but he **couldn't** find out what was wrong with the computer. (past single action)

6 Choose the correct answer.

- 'Todd was a very talented child.'
'I know. He ...**B**... play the piano well when he was seven.'
A couldn't B could C can
- 'I've just taken a loaf out of the oven.'
'Oh, that's why I smell fresh bread when I came home.'
A was able to B can't C could
- 'How was the test?'
'Easy. All the children pass it.'
A were able to B could C can't
- 'What are you doing this summer?'
'I hope I'll go on holiday with my friends.'
A could B be able to C can

7 Rewrite the sentences using the words in bold.

- Do you mind if I leave the door open for a while?
can ...*Can I leave the door open for a while?*...
- You're obliged to take notes during the lecture.
have
- I'm sorry, but you aren't allowed to enter this room.
must
- Jack managed to unlock the door.
able
- It wasn't necessary for Ann to cook dinner, but she did.
need
- Let's play a game of chess.
could
- I'm certain Sarah is bored with her work.
must
- I strongly advise you to take up sport.
must
- I'm certain Liz isn't interested in your ideas.
can
- You may take the car tonight if you want.
can

8 Study the situations and respond to each one using an appropriate modal verb.

- You want to go on holiday with your friends this year. Ask your parents for **permission**.
...*Can I go on holiday with my friends this year?*...
- You are at a job interview. You type fast, you use computers and you speak two foreign languages. Tell the interviewer about your **abilities**.
.....
- Your brother is trying to decide what to buy your mother for her birthday. You **suggest** a box of chocolates.
.....
- Your jacket is dirty and you want to wear it next week. It is **necessary** to take it to the dry cleaner's.
.....
- You want to have a day off work next week. Ask for your boss' **permission**.
.....
- You are in the car with your uncle. It's hot and you want him to open the window. Make a **request**.
.....
- Your mother is going to the shops. She asks you if you want anything. You tell her it **isn't necessary** to get anything for you.
.....

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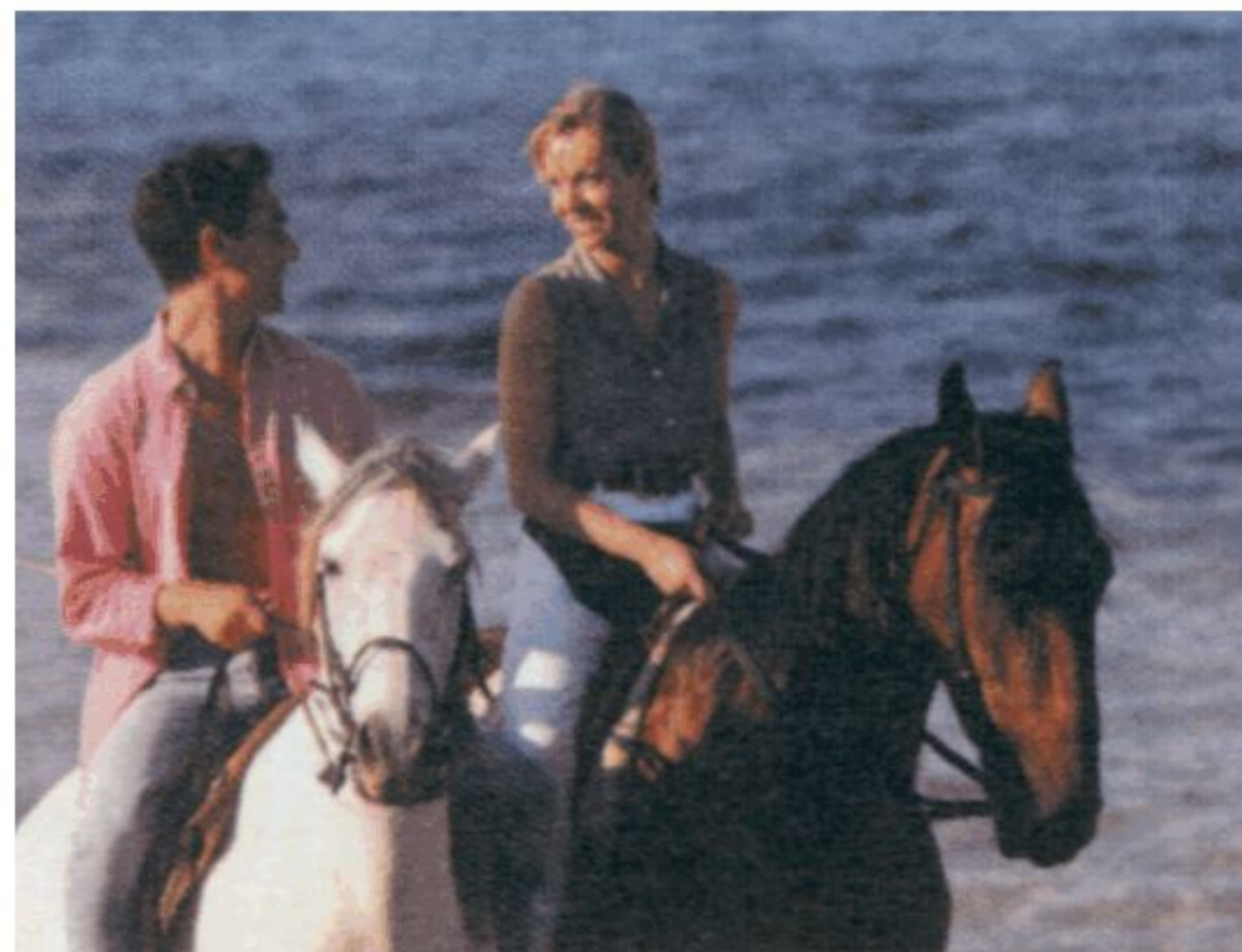
Modal Verbs

Must - Can't

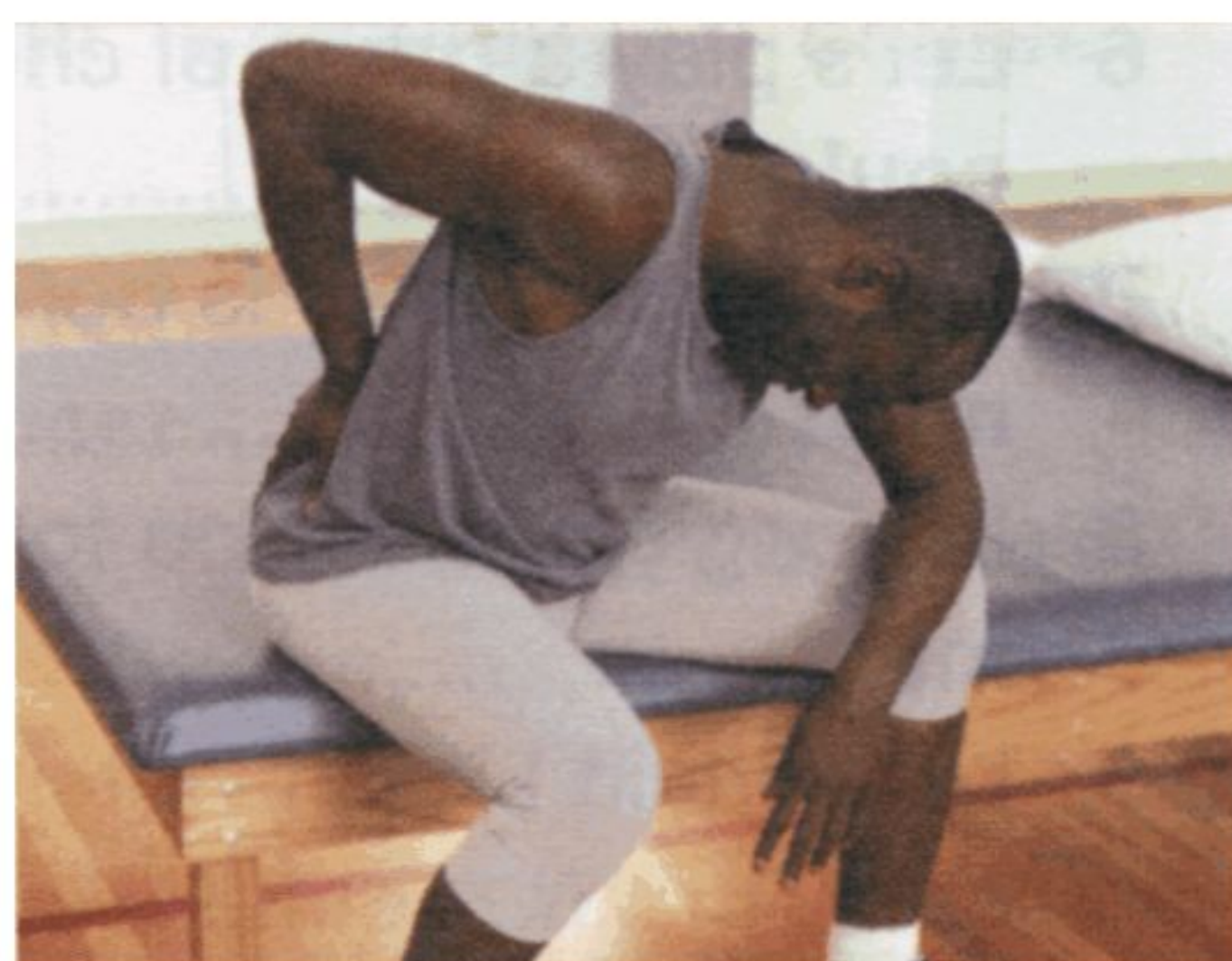
We use **must** to make positive logical assumptions. We use **can't** to make negative logical assumptions.

They **can't be** at work.
(= I'm sure they are not at work.)

They **must be** on holiday.
(= I'm sure they are on holiday.)



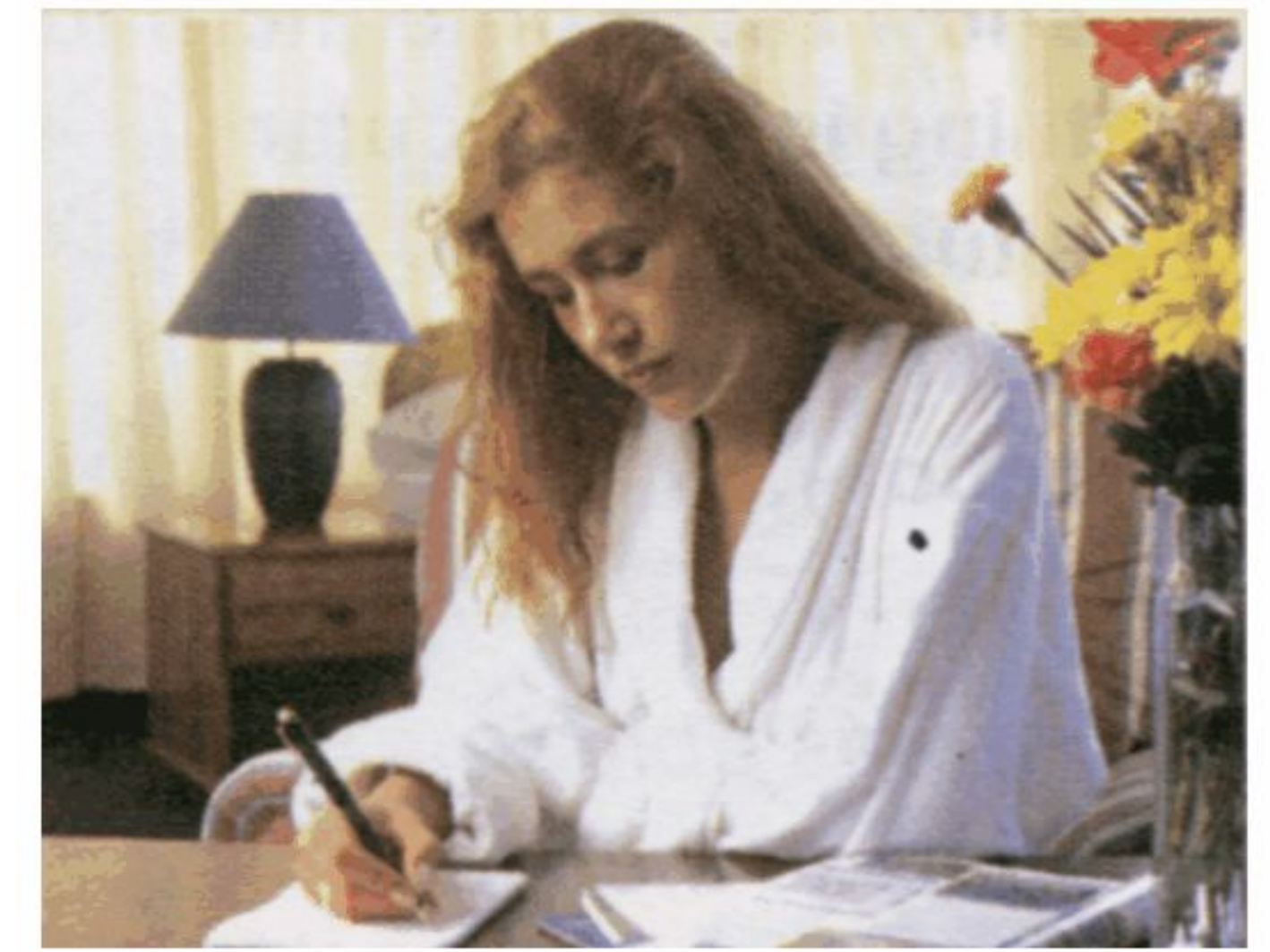
He **can't have done** the exercise properly.
(= I'm certain he hasn't done the exercise properly.)



He **must have strained** his back. (= I'm certain he has strained his back.)

She **can't be doing** her homework.
(= I'm sure she isn't doing her homework.)

She **must be writing** a letter. (= I'm sure she is writing a letter.)



The drivers **can't have been driving** slowly.
(= I'm certain they weren't driving slowly.)

The drivers **must have been driving** too fast.
(= I'm certain they were driving too fast.)



Study these examples:

present inf.	I'm sure he is Spanish. I'm sure you aren't a doctor.	He must be Spanish. You can't be a doctor.
present cont. inf.	I'm certain they're hiding . I'm sure they won't be leaving tomorrow.	They must be hiding . They can't be leaving tomorrow.
perfect inf.	I'm certain she has left . I'm sure she didn't lie . I'm certain he hadn't phoned .	She must have left . She can't have lied . He can't have phoned .
perfect cont. inf.	I'm sure they were waiting . I'm certain she has been crying . I'm certain he hadn't been trying hard.	They must have been waiting . She must have been crying . He can't have been trying hard.

9

Complete the sentences using **must** or **can't**.

- I'm certain they go to bed early on Sunday nights. They ...*must go to bed early on Sunday nights*.....
- I'm sure John didn't stay late at the office. John ...*can't have stayed late at the office*.....
- I'm certain he hasn't arrived yet. He
- I'm certain they are working together. They
- I'm sure Amy hasn't finished her homework. Amy
- I'm certain she was having a bath when I rang. She
- I'm sure he hasn't won the prize. He
- I'm sure she is looking for a new house. She
- I'm certain Paul didn't invite Linda to the party. Paul
- I'm certain you have been planning the project. You
- I'm sure she was writing a letter. She
- I'm certain they hadn't paid the bill. They
- I'm sure he had been fixing the pipe. He

May/Might

- ◆ **possibility (present/future)**
may/might/could + present infinitive
= it is possible/it is likely/perhaps



(= It's possible that she's still at work.)

- ◆ **possibility (past)**
may/might/could + perfect infinitive
= it was possible, perhaps
 - We use these structures to refer to a past action which was possibly true.**
e.g. 'The lights are still on.'
'Helen **may/might/could have forgotten** to turn them off.' (Perhaps Helen forgot/has forgotten to turn them off.)
 - We also use them to refer to things which were possible but did not happen. May is not normally used in this case.**
e.g. Why did you run across the road?
You **might/could have been killed**.
(Luckily, you weren't killed.)

Study the following negative sentences:

- She **may/might not know** about these changes.**
(Perhaps she doesn't know about the changes. - expresses possibility.)
She **can't/couldn't know about these changes.**
(It is certain that she doesn't know. - expresses certainty.)
- He **may/might not have left** yet.**
(Perhaps he hasn't left yet. - expresses possibility.)
He **can't/couldn't have left yet.**
(I'm certain that he hasn't left yet. - expresses certainty.)

- ◆ **asking permission**
May/Might I...? = Would you mind if I ...?
We use these structures to ask permission when we do not know the other person very well.

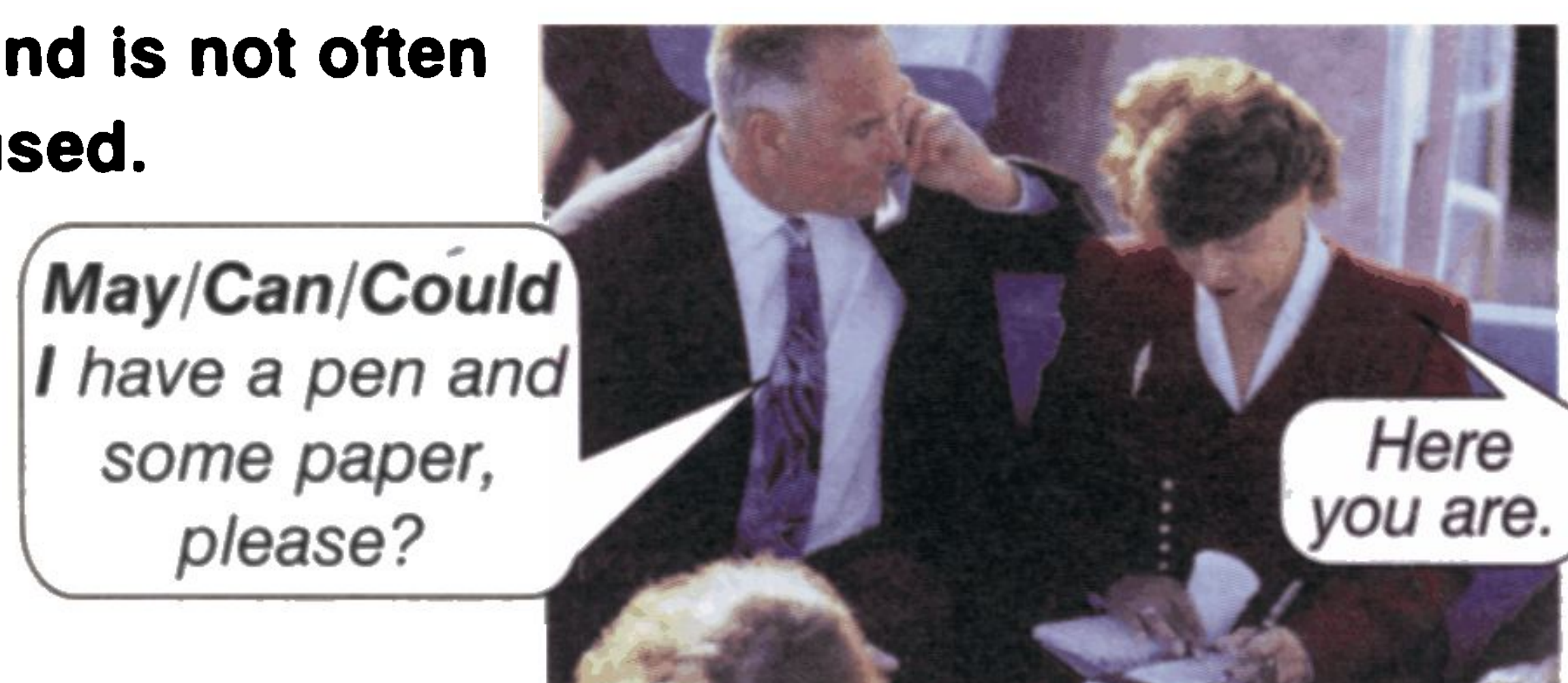


Study the following examples:

- e.g. 'Can I take this book?'
'Yes, of course.' (informal)
'Could I talk to you for a minute?'
'Certainly.' (more polite than can)

- ◆ **giving/refusing permission**
 - may/can = you are allowed to do sth**
We use **may** and **can**, but not **might** or **could**, to give permission. **May** is very formal and is not used in everyday speech.
e.g. You **can** sit here if you like. (everyday speech)
Passengers **may** take only one item of hand luggage on board. (written notice)
Note: We use **Could I...? to ask permission, and **can** or **may**, but not **could**, to reply.**
e.g. 'Could I leave a little earlier?'
'Yes, you **can**.' / 'Yes, you **may**.'
 - can't/may not = you are not allowed to do sth**
We use **can't** and **may not**, but not **couldn't**, to refuse permission.
e.g. Students **may not** wear outdoor shoes on the basketball court. (= Students aren't allowed to ...)
I'm sorry, but you **can't** park here.
(NOT: I'm sorry, but you ~~couldn't~~ park here.)

- ◆ **requests**
May/Might/Can/Could I ...?
We use these structures to ask for something politely. **Might I ...?** is more formal than **May I ...?** and is not often used.



UNIT 5 Modal Verbs

10 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- Perhaps Laura has left the phone off the hook. ...*Laura may/might/could have left the phone off the hook.*....
- Surgeons are obliged to scrub their hands before operating on patients.
- Do you mind if I open the window?
- It wasn't necessary for Peter to wash the dog, so he didn't.
- Emily managed to reach the top shelf, even though she didn't have a ladder.
- It's forbidden to copy files without the manager's permission.
- Why don't we spend this evening at home?
- I'm certain Patrick misunderstood my instructions.
- I'm sure Helen didn't know about her surprise party.

Study these examples:

present inf.	Perhaps she is a nurse. It's possible he will come early.	She may be a nurse. He might come early.
present cont. inf.	Perhaps they are having a break. It's likely we will be moving house soon.	They could be having a break. We may be moving house soon.
perfect inf.	Perhaps he left yesterday. It's possible she has locked the door. It's likely he had gone out.	He might have left yesterday. She could have locked the door. He may have gone out.
perfect cont. inf.	It's possible they were sleeping . Perhaps it has been raining there.	They might have been sleeping . It could have been raining there.

11 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- Perhaps they are at work.
They ...*may/might/could be at work.*.....
- Perhaps he is waiting outside.
He
- It's possible she will work late tonight.
She
- It's likely he was driving too fast.
He
- It's possible they made a mistake.
They
- Perhaps he has missed the bus.
He
- It's possible she has been playing in the snow.
She
- It's likely we will be leaving tomorrow.
We
- It's likely he will stay there.
He
- Perhaps she had been trying to call you.
She
- It's likely they had seen the film already.
They
- It's possible he is studying in the library.
He

12 Underline the correct word(s) in bold.

- A: Good morning. How 1) **can/must** I help you, sir?
B: I'd like to book a room for tonight, please.
A: Certainly sir.
B: How much does a single room cost for one night?
A: £35, sir. Payable in advance.
B: What! 2) **Do I have to/Could I** pay right now?
A: Yes, I'm afraid you 3) **need/must** pay in advance, sir.
B: Really. Well! 4) **Do I have to/Shall I** pay in cash?
A: No, you 5) **mustn't/needn't** pay in cash. You
6) **could/can't** pay by credit card if you prefer.
B: This is a bit unusual. I 7) **may/must** look in my wallet to see if I have enough cash with me.
A: You 8) **couldn't/don't have to** hurry, sir. Take your time.
.....
- A: Good morning. Here's the key. 9) **Could/Must** I leave my luggage here until twelve o'clock, please?
B: Of course. 10) **May/Need** I ask if you enjoyed your stay?
A: Oh yes. I 11) **can/must** write down the phone number, so that I can stay here again.
B: You 12) **mustn't/don't need to** do that, sir. I 13) **have to/can** give you our card.
A: Oh, thank you very much. Goodbye.
B: Goodbye.

Shall

◆ offers

Shall/Can/Could I ...? = Would you like me to ...?

We use these structures when we offer to do something.



◆ suggestions

Shall/Can/Could we ...? = Why don't we...?/How about ...?/What about ...?/Let's ...

We use these structures to make a suggestion.



◆ asking for suggestions or instructions

We use **shall** when we ask for suggestions or instructions.



Will/Would

◆ requests

Will/Would/Can/Could you ...?

We use these structures when we ask somebody else to do something for us. *Would* and *could* are more polite than *can* and *will*.



Compare the following examples:

e.g. *Can/Will* you post this letter? (informal, less polite than *could* or *would*)

Could/Would you post this letter? (more polite than *can* or *will*)

We often reply with: 'Yes, I'd (would) be happy/glad to.' or 'Certainly.'

e.g. 'Can you call Jack for me?'
'Certainly.'

Should/Ought to

◆ advice

should/ought to = I advise you to/you had better do sth

You *should/ought to* be more careful.

(= I advise you to/
You had better be more careful.)



Must expresses strong advice.

Compare:

You **should** talk to your lawyer. (= It would be a good idea to ...)

You **must** talk to your lawyer. (= I strongly advise you to ...)

◆ criticism

ought to/should + perfect infinitive = it would have been better if you had...

We use these structures to show that somebody did the wrong thing in the past.

You all *should/ought to have tried* harder.

(... but you didn't, so your team lost.)



13

Fill in *shall* or *will*.

- 1 ...*Shall* ... I help you with the washing-up?
- 2 we have pizza for dinner tonight?
- 3 you carry this for me, please?
- 4 What we buy for Bob's birthday?

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- 5 you answer the phone, please?
- 6 Where we sit in the classroom?
- 7 you take the rubbish out for me, please?
- 8 we have a barbecue next weekend?

14 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- 1 You had better book your flight early.
...*You ought to/should/must book your flight early.*...
- 2 Would you like me to draw the curtains for you?
.....
- 3 Why don't we go to a Japanese restaurant for a change?
.....
- 4 I strongly advise you to see a doctor as soon as possible.
.....
- 5 Can you call Greg for me, please?
.....
- 6 You ought to have checked the battery before you left.
.....
- 7 Everybody is obliged to pay taxes.
.....
- 8 You don't need to go to the supermarket today.
.....
- 9 It wasn't necessary for Betty to call a taxi because I gave her a lift.
.....
- 10 They managed to get to the theatre in time, despite the heavy traffic.
.....
- 11 You aren't allowed to keep pets in the building.
.....
- 12 Do you mind if I take the rest of the day off?
.....

15 Underline the correct word.

- 1 You may/mustn't run in the corridors. It's dangerous.
- 2 Can/Should I ask you a question?
- 3 Will/Shall we go out for lunch today?
- 4 You must/shouldn't stay at home if you are ill.
- 5 Tommy can't/couldn't tell the time when he was a baby.
- 6 My book can't/mustn't be in the house. I've looked everywhere.
- 7 You might/needn't clean the windows. I've already done them.
- 8 Will/Shall I help you?
- 9 You needn't/mustn't do the shopping. I'll do it later.
- 10 Sam left late for the airport this morning. He should/could have missed his flight.

16

Look at the pictures and answer the questions using *must/can't*, as in the example.

e.g. *Yes. They must be friends.*



Are they friends?
Is it winter?
Have they left school?



Has she just had a shower?
Is the weather cold?
Has she been playing in the forest?



Is she in a supermarket?
Is she looking for a book?
Does she enjoy reading?



Is she the baby's sister?
Is the baby sleeping?
Are they in the kitchen?

17

Choose the most appropriate response.

- 1 Will you open the door for me, please?
A Yes, I may. **B** Certainly.
- 2 Could I speak to you for a moment, please?
A Yes, of course. B No, you couldn't.
- 3 Shall I carry that bag for you?
A No, you won't. B No, it's okay. I can manage.
- 4 Could I go to the cinema tonight, please?
A Not at all. B Yes, if you like.
- 5 We could go to the theatre tonight.
A That's a nice idea. B No, we might not.
- 6 Can I borrow your pen, please?
A Not at all. B Of course.
- 7 Can you pick the children up from school for me?
A No, I may not. B No problem.
- 8 Would you please drive me to the airport tomorrow?
My car is being serviced.
A I'd be happy to. B Yes, I would.
- 9 Can I help you, sir?
A No, you can't. B No, thank you. I'm just looking.
- 10 Could you hold this for me, please?
A Yes, I could. B Of course.
- 11 Shall I take you to work tomorrow?
A Yes, please. B No, you won't.

Functions of Modal Verbs

obligation/duty/necessity

- a) You **must** sign the contract.
(You are obliged to/You have to/You need to/It is necessary.)
- b) I **must** sign the contract. (I have decided.)
- c) I **have to** sign the contract. (Someone else has decided.)

lack of necessity

- a) He **doesn't need to/doesn't have to/needn't** get a taxi. I'll give him a lift. (It isn't necessary.)
- b) He **didn't need to** get a taxi because I gave him a lift. (It wasn't necessary for him to get a taxi.)
- c) He **needn't have got** a taxi. (It wasn't necessary for him to get a taxi, but he did.)

advice

- a) You **ought to/should** revise for your test.
(I advise you to/you had better)
- b) You **must** revise for your test. (I strongly advise you to.)

suggestions

- a) We **can/could** go out for a meal later.
- b) **Shall** we go out for a meal later?
(Let's .../Why don't we ...?/How about ...?/What about ...?)

ability

- a) Kim is five years old. She **can** read and write. (present)
- b) When she was three, she **could** count to ten.
(past repeated action)
- c) Tony **was able to** win the race. (managed to do; past single action)

lack of ability

- a) Ann **can't** play the piano. (present)
- b) She **couldn't** swim fast when she was young.
(past repeated action)
- c) She **couldn't** reach the top shelf, even though she tried. (past single action)

asking permission

- a) **Can** I open the window, please? (informal)
- b) **Could** I open the window, please? (more polite)
- c) **May/Might** I open the window, please? (formal)
(Do you mind if ...?/Would you mind if ...?)

giving permission

- a) You **can** leave your luggage here.
(you are allowed to do sth; informal)
- b) You **may** leave your luggage in this area.
(you are allowed to do sth; formal - probably written)

refusing permission

- a) You **can't/mustn't** park here.
(you are not allowed to do sth; informal)
- b) You **may not** park in this area.
(you are not allowed to do sth; formal - usually written notice)

requests

- a) **Can/Will** you help me with this exercise? (informal)
- b) **Could/Would** you help me with this exercise?
(more polite)
- c) **May** I have one of those leaflets? (formal)
- d) **Might** I have one of those leaflets? (very formal)

prohibition

You **mustn't/can't** lie in court. (it's forbidden/you aren't allowed to/it's against the rules)

asking for suggestions or instructions

When/How **shall** I contact you?

possibility

- a) She **could/may/might** finish her work by six o'clock.
(it is possible/it is likely/perhaps)
- b) She **could/might have been** late. (... Luckily, she wasn't late.)

offers

Shall/Can/Could I help you cross the road?
(Would you like me to help you cross the road?)

logical assumptions

- a) She **must** be on holiday. (positive; I'm sure she is.)
- b) She **can't** be working. (negative; I'm sure she isn't.)
- c) He **must have been** on holiday. (positive)
- d) He **can't have been** at home. (negative)

criticism

He **ought to/should have told** her the truth.
(It would have been better if he had told her the truth.)

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

18

Match the items in column A to their synonyms in column B.

A	B
1 You should/ought to...	a You aren't allowed to ...
2 You must ...	b It wasn't necessary for us to ... (but we did)
3 Shall we ...?	c Why don't we ...?
4 You needn't ...	d He managed to ...
5 We needn't have ...	e It wasn't necessary for us to ...
6 We didn't need to ...	f You had better ...
7 You mustn't ...	g I'm sure she's ...
8 He was able to ...	h Do you mind if I ...?
9 She must be ...	i You are obliged to ...
10 He can't be ...	j It isn't necessary for you to ...
11 Could I ...?	k I'm sure he isn't ...
12 He may be ...	l Perhaps he's ...

19

Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- I advise you to buy this book.
...*You should/ought to buy this book...*
- It isn't necessary for him to take the exam again.
.....
- I'm sure Terry isn't at the office.
.....
- It is possible that Janet will call me this evening.
.....
- You aren't allowed to eat and drink in the classrooms.
.....
- We are obliged to clock in and out every day.
.....
- I'm sure the boys weren't upset with the result.
.....
- Would you like me to do anything to help?
.....
- Perhaps we will go for a picnic on Sunday afternoon.
.....
- Sam managed to reach the top of the mountain after climbing for several hours.
.....
- How about throwing a party on your birthday?
.....
- It wasn't necessary for John to attend the seminar.
.....
- They are obliged to go to a meeting every week.
.....
- How about visiting some friends on Saturday?
.....

20

Underline the correct word(s).

- A: Could/May/Shall you tell me the time, please?
B: Yes. It's a quarter past ten.
- A: Would/Shall/Will we go shopping tonight?
B: Yes. We need to buy some food.
- A: May/Should/Would I help you, madam?
B: Yes, please. Can/Shall/Would I have these shoes in black, please?
- A: Would/Should/Shall I get you another cup of tea?
B: No, thank you. I've had enough.
- A: Can/Shall/May you post this letter for me, please?
B: Certainly. I'll do it on my way home from work.
- A: Shall/Would/Could I speak to Jenny, please?
B: I'm sorry, she's not here at the moment.
A: Oh. Must/Shall/Would I call later, then?
- A: May/Will/Would I have a glass of water, please?
B: Yes, I'll get you one.
A: Could/May/Shall you put ice in it, please?
- A: Did you call Jane?
B: No, I didn't need to/needn't because I saw her at work.
- A: Shall/May/Could you help me, please?
B: Yes, of course.
- A: You mustn't/needn't/couldn't lock the door.
B: Oh, will you do it when you leave?

21

Underline the correct word(s).

Dear Victoria,

I'm writing to tell you about the play I'm going to be in. It's called 'Only for You', and I've got the leading role. I have a lot of lines and I 1) must/might learn them all before opening night.

We're performing the play for the first time on Friday night. We've been told that a TV company 2) must/may come to film it, so I 3) could/must be on television. I 4) needn't/might even become famous!

We 5) might/have to rehearse the play every night until Friday, because everything 6) must/shall be perfect for the performance. We 7) couldn't/mustn't make any mistakes. 8) Can/Must you come to see the play, or will you be at work? I hope you'll be able to come. If not, I'll write and tell you how it went.

I 9) could/must go and learn my lines now. See you soon.

Yours,
Charles

22

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'You ...**C**... be late for work.'
'I know. I'm leaving now.'
A needn't B must C mustn't
- 2 'Jim lose some weight. His doctor said so.'
'Then he must go on a diet.'
A mustn't B can C has to
- 3 'I go to the bank today. I have enough money.'
'Well, I'll go alone, then.'
A needn't B have to C must
- 4 'Did you deliver that parcel for me?'
'No, I find the house, so I've come back to get a map.'
A can B could C couldn't
- 5 'I clean the house today. It's dirty.'
'I'll help you.'
A needn't B must C mustn't
- 6 'I feed the dog at lunchtime. My brother did it in the morning.'
'You can do it this evening, then.'
A didn't need to B needn't have C need
- 7 'Do you need any help?'
'Yes. I open the window. It's stuck.'
A could B am able to C can't
- 8 'I swim until I was ten.'
'Well, I didn't learn until I was eleven.'
A can B can't C couldn't
- 9 'Can I talk to you, please?'
'Sorry, I go now. I'm late for a meeting.'
A mustn't B has to C must
- 10 'Is Tom good at languages?'
'Yes, he already speak French, German and Italian.'
A can't B can C could
- 11 'The test was too difficult for me.'
'Oh dear, I do it quite easily.'
A was able to B can't C can
- 12 'Where's Tom?'
'He's not at work, so he be at the library.'
A must B can't C can
- 13 '..... we go shopping today?'
'No. I'd prefer to go tomorrow.'
A Ought B Shall C Will
- 14 'Sorry Mum. I've broken a plate.'
'You be more careful.'
A may B should C might
- 15 'Where's your father?'
'He be in the garage.'
A might B can C mustn't

23

Fill in can, can't, must, mustn't, needn't or have to.

- 1 A: Is Matthew very rich?
B: He ...**must**... be. He drives a Ferrari.

- 2 A: Would you like to come shopping with me?
B: Yes, but I I do my homework this afternoon.
- 3 A: Is Tom interested in music?
B: Oh yes. He play the guitar and the saxophone.
- 4 A: Is Katie at home?
B: No, she be. Her car is not here.
- 5 A: Can I go to the cinema tonight?
B: Yes, but you be late home.
- 6 A: Hurry up. You'll be late for school!
B: I don't go to school today. It's Saturday.
- 7 A: I bought you this present.
B: Oh, you have. It's not my birthday!
- 8 A: Excuse me, I'm looking for Barkwest Bank.
B: I'm afraid I help you. I don't live here.

24

Complete the sentences, as in the example. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

Modal	Use
1 ... Shall ... we go to the zoo?	making a suggestion
2 You try harder.	giving advice
3 You take photographs here.	expressing prohibition
4 I carry this bag for you?	making an offer
5 you turn off the lights, please?	making a request
6 You have been more careful.	expressing criticism
7 I make a phone call, please?	asking for permission
8 Tom walk; he's only six months old.	expressing lack of ability
9 Mary send us a card.	expressing possibility
10 You wear a seatbelt while driving.	expressing obligation
11 They be tired.	expressing a positive logical assumption
12 I'm sorry, but you go out.	refusing permission
13 He be French.	expressing a negative logical assumption
14 You sit here.	giving permission

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

25

Choose the correct answer.

- A letter arrives at your house. You are sure it is from Paul.
A It might be from Paul.
B It must be from Paul.
C It may have been from Paul.
- You have toothache. Your mother gives you some advice.
A You may go to the dentist.
B You should go to the dentist.
C You might go to the dentist.
- You are looking for your scarf. You think it is upstairs.
A It can't be upstairs.
B It should be upstairs.
C It could be upstairs.
- Your father told you to do your homework. You tell your friends.
A I will do my homework.
B I have to do my homework.
C I might do my homework.
- You want your neighbour to babysit for you tonight.
A Would you babysit for me tonight?
B Shall you babysit for me tonight?
C Must you babysit for me tonight?
- You did the washing-up for your mother, but she didn't expect you to.
A You mustn't have done the washing-up.
B You might not have done the washing-up.
C You needn't have done the washing-up.
- There was a good film on TV. You are sure John didn't watch it.
A John should have watched it.
B John might have watched it.
C John can't have watched it.
- You want to have a pet in your flat, but your landlord tells you it isn't allowed.
A You mustn't keep pets in the flat.
B You needn't keep pets in the flat.
C You will not keep pets in the flat.
- An old lady is trying to open the door. You offer to do it for her.
A Couldn't I open the door for you?
B Must I open the door for you?
C Shall I open the door for you?
- You offer to do the shopping, but your mother says it isn't necessary.
A You must do the shopping.
B You needn't do the shopping.
C You could do the shopping.

26

Choose the correct answer.

- You ..**B**.. do your homework before you watch TV.
A can't B should C shall
- I come in? It's rather cold out here.
A Should B May C Must
- You water the plants this weekend; they look dry.
A are able to B needn't C ought to
- you collect the children from school, please?
A Must B Will C May
- you play the piano?
A Can B Must C Should
- I buy some milk. There isn't any left.
A mustn't B may C must
- When I call you?
A shall B must C needn't
- I swim before I was able to walk.
A might B could C can
- You walk to work. I'll give you a lift.
A must B needn't C may
- Tim be out. There are no lights on.
A shall B should C must

27

Look at the pictures and answer the questions using modal verbs, as in the example.

e.g. *No, he can't be playing. He must be doing his homework.*



A

Is he playing?
Is he at home?
Is he a pupil?



B

Has she graduated?
How does she feel?
Is the man her father?



C

Is she in her early forties?
Has she grown the flowers herself?
Does she enjoy gardening?
Is she a housewife?



D

What can she do?
What does she have to do every day?
Is she afraid of animals?

IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- Perhaps Tom is tired.
may Tom **may be** tired.
- I'm sure she isn't studying hard.
can't She **can't be studying** hard.
- It is possible that they went out yesterday.
could They **could have gone** out yesterday.
- It isn't necessary for Joe to come here.
have Joe **doesn't have to come** here.
- You aren't allowed to use this car.
mustn't You **mustn't use** this car.
- It wasn't necessary for him to book a table, but he did.
have He **needn't have booked** a table.
- Let's meet again tomorrow night.
can We **can meet** again tomorrow night.
- I advise you to call a doctor.
should You **should call** a doctor.

28

Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- It is possible that he has spent all the money.
could He ...*could have spent*... all the money.
- I advise you to take a course in literature.
should You in literature.
- It is possible that the police are questioning him.
may The police him.
- I'm sure he is lying about his age.
must He about his age.
- Let's have a break in five minutes.
can We in five minutes.
- It wasn't necessary for her to give me a lift, but she did.
have She me a lift.
- You aren't allowed to throw litter in the park.
mustn't You litter in the park.
- It isn't necessary for Mother to cook tonight.
have Mother tonight.
- It is possible that she has gone home.
could She home.
- Perhaps Dan is in hospital.
may Dan hospital.
- It wasn't necessary for her to call, but she did.
have She, but she did.
- I advise you to have a rest.
should You a rest.

Prepositions

apologise to sb for sth	proof of sth
apply for sth	congratulate sb on sth
annoyed about sth	generous of sb to do sth
clever at sth	tease sb about sth

29

Fill in the correct preposition.

- She was annoyed ...*about*... the postal strike, as she was waiting for a letter.
- She is very clever maths, so she helps me with my homework.
- Unless his lawyer can find proof his innocence, John will go to prison.
- The police congratulated Mr Simmons catching the burglar.
- It was very generous Steve to give all his old records to charity.
- You shouldn't tease people their problems.
- I must apologise to Sarah missing her party.
- She applied to the bank a loan so that she could buy a new car.

Phrasal Verbs

give sb away:	betray sb
give sth away:	1) reveal sth 2) give sth free of charge
give back:	return
give off:	emit (a smell, gas, etc.)
give out:	come to an end
give up:	1) abandon a habit 2) stop doing sth
give oneself up:	surrender

30

Fill in the correct particle.

- The flowers gave ...*off*... a nice smell.
- The shop is giving free bars of chocolate.
- I told her it was a secret, but she still gave the plan
- The kidnapper gave himself to the police.
- Dan gave smoking six months ago.
- You must give the cassette to Julia on Saturday.
- The water supplies gave, so they drank from the stream.
- The fire is giving a strange smell. We must get it checked.