

SECTION 6 modal verbs

● grammar summary

MODAL VERBS: *can could may might shall should will would must (ought to)*
PAST AND FUTURE OF MODALS: *be able to have to*
VERBS THAT ARE LIKE MODALS: *used to had better needn't*

The **modal verbs** are a special group of **auxiliary verbs**. We use them **before other verbs** to express certain meanings – for example **permission, ability, possibility, certainty**.

Modals have **different grammar** from other verbs. For example, they have **no -s** on the third person singular: we say *he can*, NOT *he cans*.

Used to, had better and *needn't* are similar to modals in some ways, and they are included in this section. A less common verb – *ought to* – is not practised here. For *will*, see pages 35–37.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 283.

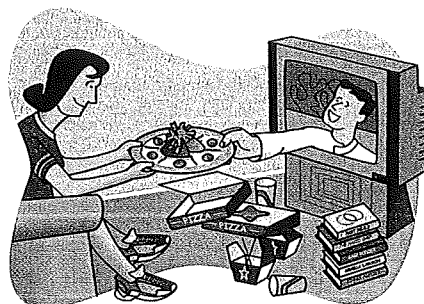
① Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▶ She cans play the piano. X | 8 You have better go home now. ... |
| 1 Can you to sing? ... | 9 We mustn't pay now, but we can if we want to. ... |
| 2 I may not be here this evening. ... | 10 Where did you use to live? ... |
| 3 You don't must open that door. ... | 11 I use to play a lot of tennis. ... |
| 4 Must you go? ... | 12 Would you like coming out with us? ... |
| 5 Last year I must work on Saturdays. ... | 13 Shall I make coffee? ... |
| 6 When do you have to leave? ... | 14 I should have told you everything. ... |
| 7 You will have to get the 10.15 train. ... | |

② Complete the sentences. (More than one answer may be possible.)



- 1 I use your phone?
- 2 you lend me a pen?
- 3 She has very good clothes. She have a lot of money.
- 4 She doesn't answer the phone. She be at home.
- 5 People smile more often.
- 6 One day, people to go to the moon on holiday.


Are TV chefs
creating a nation
that **can't cook**?



BBC Good Food

mustn't and needn't We mustn't wake the baby.

	<i>I must not go</i>	<i>you must not go</i>	<i>he/she/it must not go etc</i>
	<i>I need not go</i>	<i>you need not go</i>	<i>he/she it need not go etc</i>
	Contractions: <i>mustn't; needn't</i>		

Must has two negatives (): we use *mustn't* when we mean 'Don't do this.'
we use *needn't* when we mean 'This isn't necessary.'

You mustn't smoke here. *You mustn't take pictures here.* *We mustn't wake the baby.*
You needn't pay now; you can pay when the work is finished. *We needn't hurry – we're early.*

1 Complete the sentences with *mustn't* and the verbs in the box.

light ✓ make smoke use wash



At a campsite: ▶ *You mustn't light* fires.

1 dishes in the showers.

2 noise after 10 pm.



On a plane: 3 a mobile phone.

4 in the toilets.

2 Put the beginnings and ends together. Add *needn't* and verbs from the box.

drive give make make wake ✓

1 You *needn't wake* me up;

2 You breakfast for me;

3 You lunch for me;

4 You me to the station;

5 You me your newspaper;

A I can walk. ...

B I'll buy *The Times* at the station. ...

C I'll have lunch in the canteen. ...

D I'll just have coffee. ...

E I've got an alarm clock. ~~1~~

3 *Mustn't* or *needn't*?

▶ We *mustn't* hurry – we'll get too tired.

▶ We *needn't* hurry – we're early.

1 You stay up late – you've got school tomorrow morning.

2 You stay up late to wash the dishes – I'll wash them in the morning.

3 We leave the door open – the rain will come in.

4 We leave the door open – Peter has got a key.

5 You write to John about this – I've already written to him.


6 You write to John about this – if you do, he'll tell everybody.

7 You drive so fast – the police will stop you.

8 You drive so fast – we've got a lot of time.

9 I look in the cupboard again – I've looked in there twice.

10 I look in the cupboard – Ann has put my birthday present in there.

Affirmative () *need* is not a modal verb.

He needs to go now. (NOT *He need go now.*)

Don't/doesn't have to (see page 75) means the same as *needn't*.

have to Do you have to teach small children?

Have to is not a modal verb, but we use *have to* like *must* (see page 73), and we use *don't have to* like *needn't* (see page 74).

I/you/we/they have to go	he/she/it has to go
do I/you/we/they have to go?	does he/she/it have to go?
I/you/we/they do not have to go	he/she/it does not have to go
Contractions: <i>don't</i> ; <i>doesn't</i>	

We use *have to* when we want to say '*This is necessary*' / '*Is this necessary?*' (like *must*).

You **have to** drive on the left in Britain. I **have to** go to New York for a meeting every month.
My sister **has to** work on Saturdays. Do your children **have to** take lunches to school?

1 Complete the sentences with *has to* and expressions from the box.

be ✓ be be carry have wear

- An accountant ~~has to be~~ good with numbers. 3 A politician good at speaking.
1 A cook very clean hands. 4 A builder heavy things.
2 An army officer a uniform. 5 A secretary good at spelling.

2 Put the beginnings and ends together. Add *Do/Does ... have to*.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 'I'm a swimming teacher.' | A '..... finish it today?' ... |
| 2 'Here is some work for you and Ian.' | B '..... speak Spanish?' ... |
| 3 'I want you to go to your aunt's party.' | C '..... tell you now?' ... |
| 4 'Jo and Alec work for a Mexican firm.' | D '..... stay until the end?' ... |
| 5 'When would you like your holiday?' | E ' Do you have to teach small children?' 1 |

We use *don't/doesn't have to* when we want to say '*this is not necessary*' (like *needn't*).

You **don't have to** phone Jean; she knows already. (NOT ~~You mustn't phone~~ ...: see page 74)

3 Complete the sentences with *don't/doesn't have to* and verbs from the box.




arrive close give ✓ go post speak water

- You ~~don't have to give~~..... any food to the fish; they only eat in the morning.
1 You the windows; I'll close them later.
2 Emma the flowers; I watered them earlier.
3 Alice those letters; Cathy's going to the post office.
4 You by train; Marianne will drive you.
5 You French; everyone here understands English.
6 Oliver early; he can come at 10.

NOTE: We normally use *have to*, not *must*, when we talk about rules and laws.

You **have to** drive on the left in England. (NOT USUALLY ~~You must drive on the left~~ ...)









had to, will have to I didn't have to pay.

	PAST: HAD TO	FUTURE: WILL HAVE TO
	I/you/he etc had to go	I/you/he etc will have to go
	did I/you/he etc have to go?	will I/you/he etc have to go?
	I/you/he etc did not have to go	I/you/he etc will not have to go
	Contractions: I'll, you'll etc; didn't, won't	

We use **had to** for the past and **will have to** for the future of **must** and **have to** (see pages 73–75).
(**Had to** and **will have to** are not modals.)

My mum **had to leave** school at sixteen. Did you **have to tell** Jo? I **didn't have to pay**.
Alice **will have to start** school next September. Al **won't have to come**.

1 Write about the things that John had to do (must), and didn't have to do (must not), at school.

- ▶ (learn French ) *He had to learn French.*
- ▶ (play tennis ) *He didn't have to play tennis.*
- 1 (learn Russian )
- 2 (learn maths )
- 3 (learn music )
- 4 (play football )
- 5 (write poems )
- 6 (write stories )

2 Make questions with Did ... have to ...?




- ▶ you / learn French at school *Did you have to learn French at school?*
- ▶ Annie / work last Saturday *Did Annie have to work last Saturday?*
- 1 John / pay for his lessons
- 2 Mary / take an exam last year
- 3 Joe and Sue / wait a long time for a train
- 4 you / show your passport at the airport
- 5 the children / walk home
- 6 Peter / cook supper

3 Complete the sentences. Use 'll have to, will ... have to ...? or won't have to with the verbs in the box.

ask get get go learn play study ✓ work

- ▶ Cara wants to be a doctor. She *'ll have to study* ... hard.
- 1 Ann needs a new passport. She a form from the post office.
- 2 Bob's got a new car, so he to work by bus.
- 3 'I've got a job with a Spanish company.' '..... you Spanish?'
- 4 'John wants to be a pianist.' 'He for hours every day.'
- 5 'Can I go home early?' 'I don't know. You the boss.'
- 6 I'm working next Sunday, but I on Saturday.
- 7 'Liz wants to go to the US.' '..... she a visa?'

should What should I tell John?

	<i>I should go</i>	<i>you should go</i>	<i>he/she/it should go</i> etc	(NOT +should to go)
	<i>should I go?</i>	<i>should you go?</i>	<i>should he/she/it go?</i> etc	(NOT do + should go?)
	<i>I should not go</i>	<i>you should not go</i>	<i>he/she/it should not go</i> etc	
	Contractions: <i>shouldn't</i>			

We use **should** to talk about a **good thing to do**.

You **should be** more careful. Should I **wear** a tie? People **shouldn't drive** fast in the rain.

1 Complete the sentences with **should** and **shouldn't** and the verbs in *italics*.

- If someone doesn't speak your language very well, you ~~shouldn't speak~~ fast; you ~~should speak~~ slowly and carefully. (*speak; speak*)
- If you need a pen, you, 'Give me that pen'; you, 'Could I borrow your pen, please?' (*say; say*)
 - If people want to live until they're very old, they a lot of fruit and vegetables; they a lot of cakes and chocolate. (*eat; eat*)
 - In a big city, you careful with your money; you your bag on a chair in a restaurant. (*be; leave*)
 - When you're driving, you for hours and hours without stopping; you and walk round every two hours. (*drive; stop*)
 - When people are travelling by plane, they lots of water; they uncomfortable shoes. (*drink; wear*)

2 Make questions with **should I** and the question words and verbs from the box.

QUESTION WORDS: What ✓ What What time Where Where Who
VERBS: arrive put phone sit tell ✓ wear

- ~~What should I tell~~ John?' 'Tell him I left early.'
- 'At about 7.00.'
 - '..... first?' 'Mr Andrews.'
 - 'Your blue dress.'
 - 'At the end of the table.'
 - '..... this box?' 'On the shelf.'

We use **must** to talk about what's **necessary**, and we use **should** to talk about what's **good**.

I **must get** a new passport: I'm travelling next month. I **should eat** more fruit, but I don't like fruit.

3 Put in **should** or **must**.

- 'Do I look all right?' 'You ~~should~~ get a haircut.'
- I can't leave; I finish this work today.
 - I take more exercise, but I'm too busy.
 - You n't smoke near babies.
 - The sign says we n't smoke here.
 - What I do to get a visa?
 - You be over 16 to buy cigarettes here.
 - 'What music I play?' 'I'd like Mozart.'

Letters to a magazine

Should I give up smoking?
Should I marry Bob?
Should I move to Woking?
Should I change my job?
Should I dye my hair green?
Should I tell his wife?
Should I ask a magazine
How to live my life?

Lewis Mancha

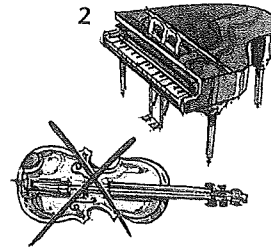
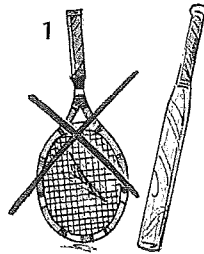
can and could He can play the piano. She couldn't write.

1	I can go	you can go	he/she/it can go etc	(NOT I can go ; NOT he can go)
2	can I go?	can you go?	can he/she/it go? etc	(NOT do I can go?)
3	I cannot go	you cannot go	he/she/it cannot go etc	(NOT I can not go)
Contraction: can't				

I can speak Italian. I can read Spanish, but I can't speak it. Can you sing?

1 Write sentences with *but* about what David can and can't do.

► Deutsch

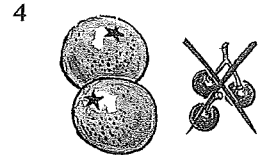


3 ~~Richard~~
~~Dan~~
~~Seah~~
~~Peter~~
~~Jane~~
~~Tom~~



► (speak) He can speak German, but he can't speak Hindi.

- 1 (play) baseball.
2 (play) violin.
3 (remember)
4 (eat) cherries.



To make questions (2) with *can*, we put *can* before the subject.
Can Bill swim? Can Alice speak Chinese? When can I pay?

2 Make questions with *can*.




- 'Little Mary is ten months old now.' (walk) 'Can she walk?'
► 'John is starting the violin.' (what / play) 'What can he play?'
1 'My brother wants to work in a restaurant.' (cook)
2 'My daughter's going to Spain.' (speak Spanish)
3 'Bill and Lisa want to buy a house.' (how much / pay)
4 'Can I help in any way?' (drive a bus)
5 'Some colours look bad on me.' (wear red)
6 'Ann and I have got a lovely hotel room.' (see the sea)
7 'I want to learn the piano.' (read music)
8 'My brother is looking for a job.' (what / do)

3 Write three things that you can do, and three things that you can't do.

- 1 I can
2 I can't

Dance while you can.
(W H Auden)

You can do what you want, if you don't think you can't.
So don't think you can't; think you can.
(Charles Inge on the philosophy of Coué)

	<i>I could go</i>	<i>you could go</i>	<i>he/she/it could go</i> etc	(NOT <i>+could to go</i>)
	<i>could I go?</i>	<i>could you go?</i>	<i>could he/she/it go?</i> etc	(NOT <i>did I could go?</i>)
	<i>I could not go</i>	<i>you could not go</i>	<i>he/she/it could not go</i> etc	
	Contraction: <i>couldn't</i>			

To talk about the **past**, we use **could**.

I could talk when I was thirteen months old.
I couldn't understand the teacher yesterday.

I could walk when I was ten months old.
How could you say that to me?

- 4 What could you do at six years old? Look at the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then make some sentences with *I could* or *I couldn't*.

climb trees dance fight play chess play the piano read run fast sing write

.....

.....

.....

- 5 Use **could** with the verbs *in italics* to complete the story.

My brother's baby was unusual. When she was three months old she (*say*) 1 *could say*
 15 words. When she was a year old she (*name*) 2 all the colours, and she
 (*count*) 3 to 100. When she was three she (*read*) 4 easy books.
 She (*not write*) 5, but she (*tell*) 6 wonderful stories, and
 she (*remember*) 7 every story that she heard. She (*not walk*) 8 until
 she was nearly two, though.

Can does **not** have an infinitive (~~*to can*~~) or a past participle (~~*+have could*~~).
 Instead, we use (to) **be able** and **been able** + infinitive with **to**. (These are not modals.)

I want to be able to speak German. (NOT ~~*...to can speak German*~~.)
I'll be able to drive soon. *I have never been able to play ball games.*

- 6 Put in **to be able to** or **been able to**.

- I hope give you an answer soon.
- I've never understand your mother.
- Sue has always do work that she liked.
- Our cat would like open the fridge door.

- 7 Complete the sentences with **will be able to** and verbs from the box.



LIFE IN THE FUTURE

do eat play remember travel

- People a lot of food and not get fat.
- Eighty-year-olds tennis and football.
- People very fast.
- People won't forget. Everybody things clearly.
- All of this will cost money. everybody
 all these wonderful things? Or only rich people?

➔ For other uses of *can* and *can't*, see pages 82–85.

may and might It may snow. I might have a cold.

	<i>I may go</i>	<i>you may go</i>	<i>he/she/it may go etc</i>
	<i>I may not go</i>	<i>you may not go</i>	<i>he/she/it may not go etc</i>
	No contractions: <i>mayn't</i>		

We use **may** to say that things are **possible** – **perhaps** they are (not) true, or perhaps they will (not) happen.
'What's that animal?' 'I'm not sure. It may be a rabbit.' *I may go to Wales at the weekend.*
We may not be here tomorrow.

We do **not** use **may** in this way in **questions**.

It may snow. BUT NOT *May it snow?*

1 Rewrite the sentences with **may**.

- ▶ Perhaps Sarah's ill.*Sarah may be ill.*
- ▶ Perhaps we'll go out.*We may go out.*
- 1 Perhaps it won't rain.
- 2 Perhaps we'll buy a car.
- 3 Perhaps Joe is not at home.
- 4 Perhaps Ann needs help.
- 5 Perhaps the baby's hungry.
- 6 Perhaps I won't change my job.
- 7 Perhaps she's married.
- 8 Perhaps he doesn't want to talk to you.

2 Put the beginnings and ends together; put in **may** with words from the box.




not be give go ✓ not have snow stay

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 'What are your plans for next year?' | A 'I'm not sure. I <i>may go</i> to America.' <u>1</u> |
| 2 'Are you going to buy that coat?' | B 'Not sure. We at home.' ... |
| 3 'Where are you all going on holiday?' | C 'It's early; he out of bed yet.' ... |
| 4 'Shall we phone Pete now?' | D 'Yes. I think it ' ... |
| 5 'It's getting very cold.' | E 'Perhaps; I enough money.' ... |
| 6 'What are you giving Oliver for his birthday?' | F 'I don't know. I him a sweater.' ... |

Note the difference between **may not be** (= 'perhaps is not') and **can't be** (= 'is certainly not').

She may not be at home – I'll phone and find out. *She can't be at home: she went to Spain this morning.*

→ For the use of **may** to ask for and give permission (for example *May I talk to you for a minute?*), see page 85.

	<i>I might go</i>	<i>you might go</i>	<i>he/she/it might go etc</i>
	<i>might I go?</i>	<i>might you go?</i>	<i>might he/she/it go? etc</i>
	<i>I might not go</i>	<i>you might not go</i>	<i>he/she/it might not go etc</i>
Contraction: <i>mighn't</i>			

We can use *might* in the same way as *may* – especially if we are **not so sure** about things.

'Are you ill?' 'Not sure. *I might have a cold. Or perhaps not.*' *I might not be here tomorrow.*

Might is unusual in questions.

- 3 John has no money. He is thinking about things that might happen. Put in verbs from the box with *might*.

buy fall find make send win ✓

1 ► *might win* a lot of money in the lottery. Or I 1 some money in the street.
Or Uncle Max 2 me \$1,000. Or a rich woman 3 in love with me.
Or the bank 4 a mistake. Or somebody 5 my old car.

- 4 *Might or might not?* Circle the correct answers.

- Kate had a big lunch, so she *might want* / *might not want* to eat this evening.
1 It's getting late. I *might finish* / *might not finish* this work on time.
2 If the traffic gets very bad we *might miss* / *might not miss* the train.
3 If he's had a good day, your dad *might give* / *might not give* you money for the cinema.
4 Andrew's story is so good that his teacher *might believe* / *might not believe* he wrote it.
5 Helen's not feeling well today – I'm afraid she *might pass* / *might not pass* her exam.
6 Alan wasn't at the last meeting. He *might know* / *might not know* the new members.

- 5 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: jobs

Complete the sentences with *might be* and words from the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.

a businessman a chef a farmer ✓ a gardener a lawyer
an opera singer a pilot a politician a vet ✓

- Little Henry likes animals. When he grows up he *might be a farmer or a vet*.
1 Angela loves aeroplanes. She might
2 George is interested in money.
3 Ann likes singing and she has a very loud voice.
4 Peter likes talking.
5 Alice likes arguing.
6 John likes cooking.
7 Mary likes flowers.

We may live without poetry, music and art;
We may live without conscience, and live without heart;
We may live without friends, we may live without books;
But civilised man cannot live without cooks.
(Owen Meredith)

Science fiction is the
literature of *might be*.
(J Cherryh)

must/can't: certainty *She must be in. He can't be hungry.*

We can use **must** to say that something seems sure/certain.

Ann's gone to bed. *She must be tired.* (= 'I am certain that she is tired.')

Look at her clothes. *She must have plenty of money.* (= 'I feel sure that she has plenty of money.')

1 Rewrite the sentences *in italics* with **must**.

► Her light's on. *She's certainly in.* *She must be in.*

1 John's coming to see me. *I'm sure he wants something.* He

2 Listen to her accent. *I feel sure she's French.*

3 Look at all those books. *He certainly reads a lot.*

4 So you're studying politics. *I'm sure that's interesting.*

5 Are those his shoes? *He certainly has very big feet.*

6 Do you live in Barton? *You certainly know Paul Baker.*

2 Read the text, look at the picture and complete the sentences with **must**.

A woman left her hotel room three days ago. Nobody has seen her since. The picture shows some things that the police have found in her room. What do they know about her?

► *She must like chocolate.*

► *She must have small feet.*

1 speak or

2 hair.

3

4

5

6

golf.

money.

interested in

dog.



The negative of **must** (to talk about certainty) is **can't**.

It can't be true. (= 'It's certainly not true.') (NOT ~~It mustn't be true.~~)

She always wears old clothes. She can't have much money.

3 Rewrite the sentences *in italics* with **can't**.

► Her light's out. *I'm sure she's not at home.* *She can't be at home.*

1 Listen to his accent. *He is certainly not American.*

2 He has a very expensive car. *I'm sure he's not a teacher.*

3 She's very bad-tempered. *I feel sure she doesn't have many friends.*

4 I filled up the car yesterday. *I'm sure we don't need petrol.*

5 He had lunch an hour ago. *He's not hungry: it's impossible.*

6 The cinema's half empty. *I'm sure the film isn't very good.*

→ For more about **must**, see pages 73–74.

→ For more about **can**, see pages 78–79 and 83–85.

can and could: requests *Can you lend me a stamp?*

We can ask people to do things (make requests) with *can you ...?* This is **informal**; we often use it when we are talking to **friends**; and also, for example, in **shops and restaurants**.

Joe, can you lend me a stamp? Can you bring me some more butter?

Could you ...? is more formal and polite; we often use it, for example, when we are talking to **strangers, older people, teachers or bosses**. *Could you possibly ...?* is very polite.

Excuse me, Mr Andrews, could you lend me a stamp?

I'm sorry to trouble you, but could you possibly watch my luggage while I get a coffee?

1 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

clean	drive	give ✓	hold	lend	pass	tell ✓
-------	-------	--------	------	------	------	--------

- Can you *give* me a receipt?
- Could you *tell* me your name?
- 1 Could you me the rice?
- 2 Can you my suit?
- 3 Can you this bag?
- 4 Could you me to the station?
- 5 Could you possibly me a pen?

2 Find better ways of asking people to do these things. (I = informal, P = polite, PP = very polite).

- Open the window. (I) *Can you open the window?*
- Lend me a pen. (P) *Could you lend me a pen?*
- Help me. (PP) *Could you possibly help me?*
- 1 Open the door. (I)
- 2 Give me an envelope. (P)
- 3 Pass me the sugar. (I)
- 4 Watch my children for a minute. (P)
- 5 Tell me the time. (P)
- 6 Change some dollars for me. (PP)

3 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: buying and paying

Make sure you know the words in the box, and then use them in requests beginning *Can you ...?*

bill	catalogue ✓	estimate	menu	price list	receipt
------	-------------	----------	------	------------	---------

- (You are telephoning a clothing company.) *Can you send me your catalogue?*
- 1 (You have just paid a taxi driver.) give me a
- 2 (You have just sat down in a restaurant.) bring me the
- 3 (You are talking to a builder.) give me an
- 4 (You are in a car showroom and you want to know how much the cars cost.)
..... give me your
- 5 (You have finished a meal in a restaurant.) bring me the

→ For other uses of *can*, see pages 78–79 and 84–85.

can, could and may: permission *Can I use the phone?*

We use *can I ...?* or *can we ...?* to ask if it is OK to do things (to ask permission).

Can I use the phone, please? Mum, *can I leave the table now?* *Can we wait here?*

We often use *Can I have ...?* and *Can we have ...?* to ask for things.

Can I have your address, please? *Can we have some water?*

① Make questions with *Can I ...?* or *Could I ...?*

DON'T SAY THIS!

► Lend me your pen.

1 I want a glass of water.

2 I'm going to use your pencil.

3 I want some more coffee.

4 I'll put my coat here.

SAY THIS (to your sister, a friend, a waiter, your secretary)

(borrow) *Can I borrow your pen (please)?*

(have)

(use)

(have)

(put)

Could ...? is more formal and polite than *can ...?*, so we use it, for example, with strangers, older people, teachers and bosses. *Could I possibly ...?* is very polite.

Could we leave our luggage here until this afternoon? *Could I possibly borrow your paper for a moment?*

② Make polite questions with *Could I ...?*

DON'T SAY THIS!

► Lend me your pen.

1 I need to use your calculator.

2 I'm leaving early today.

3 I want to take your photo.

4 Lend me your newspaper.

5 I'm going to turn on the TV.

SAY THIS (to a stranger, a teacher, a boss, an older person)

(borrow) *Could I borrow your pen, please?*

(use)

(leave)

(take)

(borrow)

(turn on)

We use *can* (✓) / *can't* (✗), but not *could/couldn't*, to say that it is or isn't OK to do things. (You *can't* is like you *mustn't* – see page 74.)

You *can* leave your books here if you want. (NOT ~~You could leave your books...~~)

You *can't* use the gym between 1.00 and 2.00.

③ Put the beginnings and ends together. Add *can* and verbs from the box.

borrow ✓ eat park play turn on watch

1 If you don't have a torch,

2 The children

3 Tell the boys that

4 If you're cold,

5 If you're bored,

6 Only teachers

A in this car park. ...

B they the cake in the kitchen. ...

C you *can borrow* mine. ~~I~~

D you the heating. ...

E in the garden. ...

F you television. ...

- 4 What do the signs tell you? Use *You can't ... here* with words and expressions from the box.

cycle park ✓ smoke take photos use mobile phones



► *You can't park here.*



3



1



4



2

We use *Can I/we ...?* to offer help.

Can I help you?

Can we book the tickets for you?

Can I carry those for you?

- 5 Use *Can I ...?* to offer help in these situations.

► Your friend has just come home from hospital. Offer to do some shopping for her.

Can I do some shopping for you?

1 You're going to make a cup of tea for yourself. Offer to make one for your sister.

2 You work in a shop. A customer walks in. Offer to help her.

3 Offer to drive your brother to the station.

4 Your friend has got a headache. Offer to get some aspirins for her.

In very formal situations, and in schools, we often use *May I ...?* to ask if something is OK, or *You may (not)* to say that something is/isn't OK.

May I have your name, please, sir?

May I use the toilet please, Mrs Roberts?

You may open your books now.

You may ask questions after the Prince has finished speaking.

This is a tourist visa: you may not take a paid job.

You may not leave until the bell rings.

- 6 A teacher is telling her class what to do. Complete the text with *may* and verbs from the box.

Please work in groups. You ► *may talk* in your group, but please talk quietly.

You 1 to another group, and you 2

the room. You 3 your dictionaries. If you want to use other books, you 4 them from the shelf; but only one person

5 the group at a time. Each group 6

the computer for twenty minutes; I will tell you when it is your turn. If you

finish before the time is up, you 7 other work, but please

work quietly.

do
leave
not leave
take
talk ✓
not talk
use
use

→ For other uses of *can* and *could*, see pages 78–79 and 83.

→ For the use of *may* to talk about possibility, see page 80.

→ For offers with *shall*, see page 86.

shall in questions What shall we do?

We often use *shall I ...?* or *shall we ...?* when we are asking or suggesting **what to do**.
Shall I put the lights on? *Where shall we meet tomorrow?* *Shall we go and see Bill?*

① Make sentences with *Shall I ...?*

- ▷ put / the meat / in the fridge ? *Shall I put the meat in the fridge?*
- ▷ what / tell / the police ? *What shall I tell the police?*
- 1 what / buy / for Sandra's birthday ?
- 2 when / phone you ?
- 3 pay / now ?
- 4 clean / the bathroom ?
- 5 how many tickets / buy ?
- 6 where / leave the car ?
- 7 what time / come this evening ?
- 8 shut / the windows ?

② Make sentences with *Shall we ...?*

- ▷ what time / leave ? *What time shall we leave?*
- ▷ watch / a video tonight ? *Shall we watch a video tonight?*
- 1 go out / this evening ?
- 2 have / a game of cards ?
- 3 how / travel to London ?
- 4 what / do at the weekend ?
- 5 where / go on holiday
- 6 look for / a hotel ?
- 7 what time / meet Peter ?
- 8 how much bread / buy ?

We can use *Shall I ...?* to offer politely to **do things for people**.

Shall I take your coat? *Shall I make you some coffee?*



③ Make sentences offering to:

- ▷ carry somebody's bag *Shall I carry your bag?*
- 1 post somebody's letters
- 2 do somebody's shopping
- 3 make somebody's bed
- 4 read to somebody
- 5 drive somebody to the station
- 6 make somebody a cup of tea

→ For offers with *can*, see page 85.

→ For *I shall* (meaning the same as *I will*), see page 35.

had better You'd better take your umbrella.

	I had better go	you had better go	he/she/it had better go etc
	I had better not go	you had better not go	he/she/it had better not go etc
	Contractions: I'd better, you'd better, etc		

I/you/etc **had better** do this means 'This is a **good thing** to do now.'

You'd **better** take your umbrella. I'd **better not** stay any longer; I've got work to do.

We use **had better** to talk about the **present**, not the past.

You'd **better** stop that, young lady. (NOT ~~You've better~~ ...)

1 Put the beginnings and ends together. Use 'd better with the verbs in the box.

not drink go phone ✓ phone not sit stop

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 My husband worries if I'm late; | A I it. ... |
| 2 This milk smells bad; | B I 'd better phone him. ¹ |
| 3 That chair looks very dirty; | C we the doctor. ... |
| 4 The baby's temperature is 40°; | D we and get some. ... |
| 5 You have to get up early tomorrow; | E you to bed. ... |
| 6 There's almost no petrol in the car; | F you on it. ... |

We use both **had better** and **should** to say 'This is a **good thing** to do now.'

We use **should**, BUT NOT **had better**, to say 'This is a **good thing** to do in general.'

We're late (now). We'd **better** phone Mum. OR We **should** phone Mum.

You **should** always drive very carefully near schools. (NOT ~~You had better always drive~~ ...)

2 Write 'd better where it's possible; in other places write should.

- ▷ 'I can't move the fingers of my left hand.' 'You 'd better go to hospital.'
- ▷ Everyone in the world ..~~should~~..... get enough food to eat.
- If you don't like cats, you not come with us to Ann's house.
 - If you see an accident, you remember the time.
 - Oh, no, look – my car window's broken. I call the police.
 - Teachers mark homework and give it back as soon as possible.
 - The swimming pool closes in ten minutes; we swim now.
 - People drive more slowly when it's raining.

NOTE: we don't use **You'd better** ... to ask people politely to do things.

Could you open the door for me? (NOT ~~You'd better open the door for me.~~)

Would you like to wait here for a minute? (NOT ~~You'd better wait here~~ ...)

And note that we don't usually say **You had better** ... to customers, teachers or bosses.

You **might want** to try a larger size. (NOT ~~You'd better try~~ ...)

would Would you like a drink? I'd like to be taller.

We often use **would** in the expression **I'd like** (= 'I would like'), to ask for things. It is more polite than **I want**.
I'd like a return ticket, please. I'd like a seat by the window.

We can offer things with **would you like ...?**

Would you like a drink? How many eggs would you like?

① Make sentences with **I'd like ...**, **please** or **Would you like ...?**

- ▷ two tickets ☒ *I'd like two tickets, please.*
- ▷ coffee ☒ *Would you like coffee?*
- 1 a black T-shirt ☒
- 2 an aspirin ☒
- 3 the newspaper ☒
- 4 an ice cream ☒
- 5 some more toast ☒
- 6 a receipt ☒

We can use **would like to** to talk about things that people **want to do**.

I'd like to learn Chinese. What would you like to do on Sunday?

Would you like to have lots of brothers and sisters? I wouldn't like to be an astronaut.

② Which of these things would you like to be or do? Write sentences beginning **I'd like to ...** or **I wouldn't like to ...**

- ▷ be shorter *I'd like to be shorter. OR I wouldn't like to be shorter.*
- 1 be taller
- 2 be younger
- 3 be older
- 4 go to the moon
- 5 live in a different country
- 6 have a lot of dogs
- 7 write a book
- 8 (your sentence)

We often use **Would you like to ...?** in invitations.

Would you like to come to Scotland with us?

Don't confuse **would like** (= 'want') and **like** (= 'enjoy'). Compare:

I'd like some coffee, please. (NOT I like some coffee, please.) I like coffee but I don't like tea.

Would you like to go skating today? (NOT Do you like to go ...?) Do you like skating?

③ Circle the correct forms.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Do / Would you like to come to dinner with us? | 4 Do you like dancing? Yes, I do. / Yes, please. |
| 2 I like / would like mountains. | 5 I like / would like to get up late tomorrow. |
| 3 Do / Would you like to go out now? | 6 I don't / wouldn't like old music. |
| | 7 I don't / wouldn't like to be an animal. |

→ For sentences like *I'd like you to come early tomorrow*, see page 122.

→ For **would** in sentences with **if**, see page 230.

used to I used to play the piano.

	I used to play	you used to play	he/she/it used to play etc
	did I use to play?	did you use to play?	did he/she/it use to play? etc
	I did not use to play	you did not use to play	he/she/it did not use to play etc

I used to play the piano. I don't play now.



We use **used to + infinitive** for **finished habits and situations**: things that were true, but are not now. (*Used to* is not really a modal: we make **questions** and **negatives** with **did**.)

I **used to play** the piano, but I **stopped**. Pat **used to have** long fair hair.
Where **did you use to live** before you came here? I **didn't use to like** fish, but now I do.

1 Make sentences about people hundreds of years ago. Begin (Most) people used to ... or (Most) people didn't use to ... or A lot of people used to ...

- ▷ be farmers *Most people used to be farmers.*
- ▷ have cars *People didn't use to have cars.*
- 1 travel on foot or on horses
- 2 go to school
- 3 learn to read
- 4 cook on wood fires
- 5 live very long
- 6 work very long hours



To talk about **present** habits and situations, we use the **simple present**, NOT *use to*.
I **play** a lot of tennis. (NOT *I use to play a lot of tennis*.)

2 Make sentences about past and present habits and situations.

- ▷ John / rugby / tennis *John used to play rugby. Now he plays tennis.*
- 1 Ann / study German / French
- 2 Bill / live London / Glasgow
- 3 Mary / read a lot / TV
- 4 Joe / driver / hairdresser
- 5 Alice / coffee / tea
- 6 Peter / lots of girlfriends / married

3 Make questions about a very old person's past.

- ▷ where / go to school *Where did you use to go to school?*
- 1 have dark hair Did
- 2 play football
- 3 where / work
- 4 enjoy your work
- 5 go to a lot of parties

4 Write a sentence about your past.

I used to

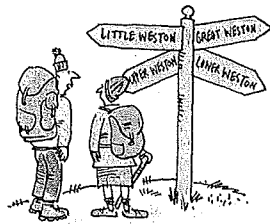
perfect modal verbs *I should have studied harder.*

1	<i>I should have gone</i>	<i>you should have gone</i>	<i>he/she/it should have gone etc</i>
2	<i>should I have gone?</i>	<i>should you have gone?</i>	<i>should he/she/it have gone? etc</i>
3	<i>I should not have gone</i>	<i>you should not have gone etc</i>	
Contraction: <i>shouldn't</i>			

If somebody **didn't** do something that was important, we can say *he/she should have done it*.
Ann should have gone to the doctor yesterday, but she forgot.
I should have studied harder when I was at school.

① Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with *should have*, using the verbs in the box.

arrived been brought brought locked put told ✓



- You should have told me that you were coming.
 1 He his car.
 2 You here at 2 o'clock.
 3 She more sugar in.
 4 We a map.
 5 They at the station earlier.
 6 I my umbrella.

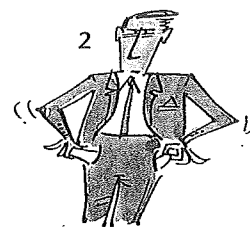
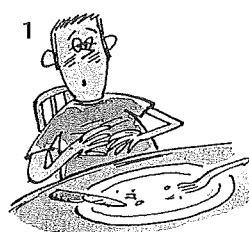
If somebody did something wrong, we can say *he/she shouldn't have done it*.
You shouldn't have told the policeman that he was stupid.

→ For *would have* with *if*, see page 235.

- 2 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with *shouldn't have*, using the words in the box.

eaten gone played spent

- 1 I
so much.
- 2 He
all his money on clothes.
- 3 I
to bed so late last night.
- 4 We
poker with that nice man.



If somebody didn't do something that was possible, we can say *he/she could have done it*.
I could have gone to university, but I didn't want to.

- 3 Complete the sentences with *could have*, using words from the box.

been gone lent married studied won

- 1 Ann John or Peter, but she didn't love either of them.
- 2 Why didn't you ask me for money? I you some.
- 3 I mathematics, but I decided to do languages instead.
- 4 Our team the match, but they didn't try hard enough.
- 5 The holiday was OK, but it better.
- 6 We to Paris last weekend, but we thought this weekend would be better.

If we say something *may have happened*, we mean that **perhaps** it (has) happened.
Pat isn't answering the phone. She may have gone out. (= 'Perhaps she's gone out.')'

- 4 Rewrite these sentences with *may have*.

- ▶ Perhaps Shakespeare went to Italy. *Shakespeare may have gone to Italy.*
- 1 Perhaps she's broken her leg.
 - 2 Perhaps I've lost my keys.
 - 3 Perhaps Alice has gone back home.
 - 4 Perhaps my great-grandfather was a soldier.
 - 5 Perhaps I've found a new job.
 - 6 Perhaps this house was a school once.

If we say that something *must have happened*, we mean that we **feel sure** that it (has) happened.

- 5 Rewrite the sentences *in italics* with *must have*.

- ▶ The exam was easy. *I'm sure I've passed.* *I must have passed.*
- 1 Her office is locked. *I'm sure she's gone home.*
 - 2 I can't find my umbrella. *I feel sure I left it on the bus.*
 - 3 Ann hasn't come. *I'm sure she's forgotten.*
 - 4 The car isn't here. *I'm sure John has taken it.*

test yourself modal verbs

1 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- ▶ John cans swim. ✗
- ▶ I must go now. ✗
- 1 I don't must see Andrew today. ...
- 2 Anna can't to speak English. ...
- 3 Last year I must sell my car. ...
- 4 Would you like to have some coffee? ...
- 5 It may rain tomorrow. ...
- 6 I mustn't work on Saturdays, but I can if I like. ...

2 Circle the correct answers.

- ▶ Can / Should / Mustn't I help you?
- 1 If you travel to Morania you can / should / must have a visa.
- 2 You shouldn't / don't have to / couldn't laugh at old people.
- 3 Passengers must / must not / should not smoke in the toilets.
- 4 I think you should / must / may eat less and take more exercise.
- 5 You mustn't / may not / needn't tell me if you don't want to.
- 6 You may / have to drive on the left in Britain.

3 Change the times of these sentences.

- ▶ Helen can ski. Helen could ski when she was 3 years old.
- 1 I can speak French now. soon.
- 2 Everybody must fill in a big form. last year.
- 3 Everybody must fill in a big form. next year.

4 Choose the correct verbs to rewrite the sentences with the same meaning.

- ▶ I know how to swim. (can / may) I can swim
- 1 It is necessary for you to phone Martin. (must / might)
- 2 It is possible that Ann will be here this evening. (can / might)
- 3 It is not necessary for you to wait. (mustn't / needn't)
- 4 It's not good for people to watch TV all the time. (mustn't / shouldn't)
- 5 Do you want me to open a window? (shall / will)

5 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- 1 Where did you use to go to school? ...
- 2 I often use to go skiing. ...
- 3 You should had told me before. ...
- 4 You have better to stop smoking. ...

6 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 She has new clothes every week. She can / could / must have plenty of money.
- 2 She doesn't answer the phone. She mustn't / can't / shouldn't be in her office.
- 3 Bill isn't here. He may has gone / may have gone / may have go home.

7 Make these sentences more polite. (Different answers are possible.)

- ▶ Give me some water. Can I have some water?
- 1 I want a cup of coffee.
- 2 Can I take a photograph of you?
- 3 Close the door, John.

More difficult questions