

FUNCTIONS OF MODAL VERBS:

1. **Internal obligation / Strong advice.** Must
2. **External obligation / Necessity**..... Have / Has to
3. **Lack of necessity**..... Don't / doesn't have to
4. **Advice**..... Should
5. **Ability**..... Can / Could / Will be able to
6. **Lack of ability**..... Can't / Couldn't / won't be able to
7. **Asking permission**..... Can / May
8. **Giving permission**..... Can / May
9. **Refusing permission**..... Can't / May not
10. **Prohibition**..... Mustn't
11. **Possibility**..... Can , Could , May , Might
12. **Positive deduction**..... Must
13. **Negative deduction**..... CAN'T

MODAL VERBS 1

REPHRASE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING THE VERBS GIVEN IN BRACKETS. THEN, DECIDE WHICH FUNCTION FROM THE TABLE ABOVE IS BEING USED.

- a) It's Saturday tomorrow. It isn't necessary for my sister to get up early. [HAVE TO]
MY SISTER DOESN'T HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW
- b) She's able to play the guitar really well. [CAN]
SHE CAN PLAY THE GUITAR REALLY WELL
- c) Maybe this is the house we're looking for. [COULD]
THIS COULD BE THE HOUSE WE ARE LOOKING FOR
- d) I'm sure this is the restaurant we ate at. [MUST]
THIS MUST BE THE RESTAURANT WE ATE AT
- e) This definitely isn't the restaurant we ate at. [CAN]
THIS CAN'T BE THE RESTAURANT WE ATE AT
- f) Yes, it's OK for you to leave earlier. [CAN]
YOU CAN LEAVE EARLIER
- g) It's not a good idea to eat so much chocolate. [SHOULD]
YOU SHOULDN'T EAT SO MUCH CHOCOLATE
- h) I insist you say sorry to him. [MUST]
YOU MUST SAY SORRY TO HIM
- i) There's a slight possibility of better weather tomorrow. [MIGHT]
THE WEATHER MIGHT BE BETTER TOMORROW
- j) Is it all right if I use the phone? [MAY]
MAY I USE THE PHONE?

- k)** It isn't possible for me to meet you in the evening. [CAN]
I CAN'T MEET YOU IN THE EVENING
- l)** I think you'd better get medical treatment. [SHOULD]
YOU SHOULD GET MEDICAL TREATMENT
- m)** Do you mind if I leave work early today? [COULD]
COULD I LEAVE WORK EARLIER TODAY?
- n)** Roger knew how to swim when he was 3. [COULD]
ROGER COULD SWIM WHEN HE WAS 3
- o)** You are not allowed to smoke here. [MUST]
YOU MUSTN'T SMOKE HERE

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| a) 3 | d) 12 | g) 4 | j) 7 | m) 7 |
| b) 5 | e) 13 | h) 1 | k) 6 | n) 5 |
| c) 11 | f) 8 | i) 11 | l) 4 | o) 10 |

REPHRASE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A SUITABLE MODAL VERB:

- 1.- I am sure **they** go to bed early at night (AFFIRMATIVE CERTAINTY)
They **MUST go** to bed ...
- 2.- You are obliged to take notes during a class (OBLIGATION)
You **MUST take** notes ...
- 3.- You'd better take up sport. (ADVICE)
You **SHOULD take up** ...
- 4.- It isn't necessary for **us** to wear a uniform (LACK OF OBLIGATION)
We **DO NOT HAVE TO wear** ...
- 5.- I am sure **he** hasn't arrived yet (NEGATIVE CERTAINTY)
He **CAN'T have arrived** yet.
- 6.- Students are not allowed to wear outdoor shoes on the basketball court (PERMISSION)
Students **MUSTN'T wear** ...
- 7.- You are not allowed to park here (PERMISSION)
You **CAN'T / MUSTN'T park** here.
- 8.- It **wasn't** necessary for **Sarah** to type her compositions (LACK OF OBLIGATION)
Sarah **DID NOT HAVE TO type** ...
- 9.- It is forbidden to throw litter on the beach (PROHIBITION)
You **MUSTN'T throw** ...
- 10.- Perhaps **they** are at work (POSSIBILITY)
They **MAY / MIGHT be** at ...
- 11.- I strongly advised **you** to see the doctor (STRONG ADVICE)
You **MUST / SHOULD see** ...
- 12.- Do you mind if I take the rest of the day off? (PERMISSION)
CAN / MAY I take ...?
- 13.- They **knew** how to surf when they were 10 (ABILITY)
They **COULD surf** ...
- 14.- It is possible that **Jenny** will call me this evening (POSSIBILITY)
Jenny **MAY / MIGHT call** ...

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH A SUITABLE MODAL VERB:

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|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Jim (lose) some weight. His doctor said so | MUST / SHOULD |
| 2 | She (go) to the bank. She's got enough money | DOESN'T HAVE TO |
| 3 | I(clean) the house. It's dirty | MUST / SHOULD |
| 4 | I(swim) until I was 10 | COULDN'T |
| 5 | Matthew(be) very rich. He's got a Ferrari | MUST |
| 6 | Katie(be) at home. Her car is not here | CAN'T |
| 7 | Tom(walk). He's only 7 months old | CAN'T |
| 8 |(I/make) a phone call, please? | CAN / MAY |

- 9 We(go) for a picnic on Sunday afternoon CAN / COULD / SHOULD
- 10 I'm sorry I'm late.(I/come) in? CAN / MAY
- 11 A: Good morning, sir. **CAN / MAY I HELP**(I/help) you?
B: I **WOULD LIKE TO BOOK** (like/book) a room for tonight
A: Certainly, sir
B: **HOW MUCH DOES A SINGLE ROOM COST** (a single room/ cost)?
A: \$45, sir
B: **DO I HAVE TO PAY** (I/pay) right now?
A: Yes, I'm afraid you **HAVE TO PAY** (pay) in advance.
B: Really! Well, **CAN I PAY** (I/pay) in cash?
A: No, you **CAN'T PAY** (pay) in cash. You **HAVE TO PAY** (pay) by credit card.
- A: Good morning, sir.(I/help) you?
B: I.....(like/book) a room for tonight
A: Certainly, sir
B:(a single room/ cost)?
A: \$45, sir
B:(I/pay) right now?
A: Yes, I'm afraid you(pay) in advance.
B: Really! Well,(I/pay) in cash?
A: No, you(pay) in cash. You(pay) by credit card.

