

MODAL VERBS

1. Rewrite these sentences using **must**:

1. He is probably older than he looks. 2. It is probably very pleasant to live in a mountain resort. 3. This is probably the best Romanian film of the year. 4. Considering its being in great demand, it is probably a very good product. 5. He probably came home very early. 6. She is probably a very good doctor. 7. So many people are speaking about it that it is probably a very good book. 8. It probably took a long time to make this translation. 9. He probably thinks I am wrong. 10. You probably left your umbrella in the shop.

2. Rewrite these sentences using **may**:

1. Don't wait; it is possible for her to be very late. 2. I have bought his latest book; perhaps it is a good one. 3. Take your umbrella; perhaps it will rain. 4. It is possible that I come home early. 5. She didn't speak to you because, I think, she is angry with you. 6. A good knowledge of English is likely to help you a lot in your career. 7. It is possible that he was right but I don't think so. 8. Perhaps he has done the exercise correctly but I doubt it. 9. Perhaps she has returned the book to you and you have lent it to someone else. 10. It is possible that someone stole the missing object. 11. Perhaps she was out when you rang.

3. Fill in the blanks with **can** or **can't**:

1. Man ... travel through space now. 2. He ... reach the moon and walk there. 3. He ... even drive on its surface. 4. But one still ... breathe without extra oxygen and you certainly ... stay there very long. 5. When we ... fly there as easily as we fly to other countries of the earth, holidays will be very different.

4. Fill in the blanks, using **could** and **couldn't**:

I had a terrible dream last night. I ... open the door because it was locked. Although I tried to shout, I ... I ... hear people laughing outside, but although I banged on the door, they ... hear me. Through the smoke I ... see a window, but when I tried to reach it I ... move. I ... feel myself getting hotter and hotter and I ... breathe. Suddenly I woke up. No wonder I was hot and ... breathe. My cat was sitting on top of my face

5. Give two negative answers to each of the following questions. Explain the difference:

1. Must I go now? 2. Need I come very early tomorrow? 3. Must he write a composition for tomorrow's class? 4. Must he take this medicine twice a day? 5. Must I type this text? 6. Need I explain everything to you? 7. Must I be in by ten o'clock? 8. Need you take such things in earnest? 9. Need you always lie like that? 10. Need he stay at the office until 6 o'clock today?

6. Use **must not** or **need not** to fill the spaces in the following sentences:

1. Visitors ... walk on the grass. 2. You ... take an umbrella. 3. You ... return the books earlier than 2 weeks. 4. You ... drive fast; there is a speed limit here. 5. You ... water the flowers; it will rain soon. 6. We ... leave so early; we can take a

taxi up to the station. 7. You ... smoke in this room. 8. You ... talk to other candidates during the exam. 9. We ... miss this train. The next one is only due after five hours. 10. One ... travel on a bus without a ticket. 11. One ... buy a ticket for a slow train in advance. 12. You ... think the others to be less intelligent than yourself. 13. You ... take this medicine, it will do you harm.

7. *Fill in the blanks with **must**, **mustn't** or **needn't**:*

“It’s as easy as boiling an egg” But boiling an egg is difficult. The egg ... come straight from the refrigerator because it will be too cold. And it ... be fresh. It certainly ... be cracked. Some people say the water ... be boiling but others say it ... be cold. You ... put the egg into the water gently to stop it cracking. You ... time it carefully although you ... have a stopwatch and you ... watch it the whole time. Enjoy your egg!

8. *Fill in the blanks with **should** or **would**:*

1. You ... not go to bed so late at night. 2. ... you help me solve this problem? 3. I ... hurry up in order not to miss the train. 4. You ... invite John to the party, too. 5. When I was a child, my mother ... read me stories. 6. My grandmother ... sit for hours watching TV. 7. ... you be so kind and pass me the salt, please? 8. You ... have told me the truth from the very beginning. 9. He always makes mistakes because he ... never take my advice. 10. You ... not eat so many sweets if you don’t want to be fat. 11. You ... not expect everybody to obey you. 12. John looks pale; he ... take a week’s holiday.

9. *Fill in the blanks with **shall** or **will**:*

1. He ... read for hours on end. 2. ... you sit down, please? 3. This ... be John’s house. 4. You ... do this whether you like it or not. 5. If you win the contest, you ... have a nice present. 6. Go to sleep, I promise you ... not be disturbed. 7. He ... often come to play chess with my brother. 8. She ... write an article for this periodical every week. 9. This letter is full of mistakes; you ... re-type it. 10. He always does what he. ... 11. This radio ... not work. 12. You ... stop making this noise right away. 13. ... you correct my translation, please? 14 ... you tell me the truth for once?

10. *Turn the following sentences into the future, using the model verb substitutes:*

1. He can swim very well. 2. I must go soon. 3. You may leave earlier today. 4. She can lend you that book. 5. The child may have another cake. 6. You may not smoke here. 7. I can translate ten pages a day. 8. He may not come in wearing dirty boots. 9. Can you help me? 10. I must look up the words in the dictionary. 11. Jane can type very quickly. 12. She can play the piano well. 13. I must send her a birthday card. 14. We must speak to him about it. 15. I must learn English. 16. You may not speak to your mother like that. 17. He must study this subject seriously. 18. She can read and write at the age of five. 19. Everybody may borrow books from this library. 20. You must not wait long.

11. *Turn the sentences from exercise (10) into the past tense, using modal verb substitutes were necessary*

12. *Give the following sentences a past meaning using the perfect infinitive:*

1. John must be ill. 2. It can't be too late. 3. It might rain. 4. He must be delayed at the office. 5. You might write to me more often. 6. You should visit your sick friend in hospital. 7. He ought to tell me the truth. 8. You might change your mind about that. 9. He may be at home. 10. He should go to the lectures every day. 11. It can't be easy to learn Chinese. 12. You can't be very pleased with this piece of news. 13. You might pay more attention to your work. 14. You needn't do this. 15. You can't see a bear in this part of the country. 16. I can't be very pleased when receiving such news. 17. I needn't buy milk; there is plenty in the fridge. 18. He must be in the garden at this time of the day. 19. It must be difficult to climb this mountain. 20. You shouldn't go to bed so late, that's why you are always tired.

13. Insert "**didn't need to**" or "**needn't have**", according to the meaning:

1. I ... (answer) the questions, which was very convenient. 2. I ... (answer) the questions, which would have saved me a lot of trouble. 3. I ... (buy) a new map of London as my friend lent me one. 4. You ... (say) anything about it as I knew the truth anyway. 5. You ... (lend) him so many books; he will never read them all. 6. We ... (wait) too long; he was back soon. 7. I ... (see) him for that; I wrote him a letter. 8. You ... (wake) me so early today, it is Sunday. 9. You ... (wait) for me, I could have found the way by myself. 10. The student ... (write) such a long composition because the teacher won't have time to read it all.

14. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by using **must**, **can't** or **needn't** with the perfect infinitive:

1. It ... (rain) here; the road is dry. 2. I haven't got my bag with me; I ... (leave) it on the bus. 3. The child ... (leave) home; I locked the door and took the key with me. 4. You ... (see) Ann yesterday. She is in the mountains. 5. You ... (lend) him so many books; he will never read them all. 6. John ... (do) such a thing; he is a nice boy. 7. I didn't hear the phone; I ... (be) in the garden. 8. He ... (swim) across the Danube; he is a very poor swimmer. 9. You ... (lend) him your text/book. He has one of his own. 10. You ... (call) for the doctor. I am all right now. 11. He ... (be) at home, the light was on in his room. 12. It ... (take) you a long time to knit the dress. 13. You ... (be) stung by a bee. 14. It ... (be) too late when you arrived home because I wasn't asleep yet.

15. Make polite requests with **will** or **would** to get the following answers, as in the given example:

Wife: Get me a drink of water, will you, dear?

Husband: Certainly. Would you prefer it iced?

1. Customer: ... ?
Shop/assistant: Certainly, sir. Which brand of cigarettes do you prefer?
2. Policeman: ... ?
Driver: Yes, of course, I will show you my driving-licence.
3. Mother: ... ?
Son: Of course. Shall I fetch you the red pen or the blue one?
4. Teacher: ... ?

Student: Do you want to see my grammar exercise or my composition?

5. Girl: ... ?

Friend: Of course I can lend you any of my books.

16. *Make up a dialogue between a shop/assistant and customer intending to buy a pair of shoes, inserting all the modal verb suiting the context.*

17. *Translate into English:*

1. Toți studenții pot și trebuie să facă această lucrare. 2. Va trebui să mă ajuți mai mult astăzi. 3. Sunt sigur că vei putea găsi timp să faci aceasta. 4. Mi-a spus mama că pot să întârzi după ora 10. Mi s-a permis să dau referatul mâine în loc de astăzi. 6. Știam să cânt la pian când eram copil. 7. Nu știu să înot. 8. Ai putea să-mi telefonezi mai des. 9. Ai fi putut să-mi scrii când ai fost în Anglia. 10. Ar trebui ca toți copiii să facă treburi în casă. 11. Ar fi trebuit să citesc bibliografia pentru acest seminar. 12. Toată lumea va fi prezentă la ședință. 13. Va trebui să plec peste o jumătate de oră. 14. Nu trebuie să-ți cari singură valizele în gară, poți să iei un cărucior. 15. Trebuie să-mi schimb pantofii când intru în casă pentru că sunt plini de noroi. 16. E nevoie să urcăm până la Cota 1400 pe jos? Nu, putem lua autobuzul sau telefericul. 17. Nu a fost nevoie să-i telefonez Ioanei pentru că urma să vină la mine peste o jumătate de oră. 18. Nu era nevoie să-mi faci cafea, am băut deja două astăzi. 19. Nu era nevoie să spui mulțumesc când ai aflat ora exactă la numărul 958, întrucât informația era înregistrată pe bandă. 20. Nu se poate să fi plouat aici. Șoseaua e uscată. 21. Nu te mai lauda; orice student ar fi putut face această lucrare. 22. Nu se poate ca profesorul să fi fost mulțumit cu acest răspuns. 23. Probabil că eram la facultate când m-ai căutat. 24. Când eram elev, obișnuiam să citesc câte o carte pe zi. 25. Am cerut să vorbesc cu directorul, dar acesta nu a vrut să vină la telefon. Ar fi trebuit să insist. 26. Niciodată nu vrei să mă ascuți. De aceea intri în încurcături. 27. Du-te să vezi filmul; s-ar putea să-ți placă. 28. Nu se poate ca Shakespeare să fi scris această piesă, întrucât evenimentele menționate aici s-au petrecut după moartea lui. 29. De ce ai vorbit atât de tare? S-ar fi putut să te audă cineva. 30. Îți promit că vei avea cartea mâine. 31. Nu se poate să fi găsit ușa deschisă. O încuiasem chiar eu.