

# Modals Exercises

## What are modal verbs?

Modals (also called modal verbs, modal auxiliary verbs, modal auxiliaries) are special verbs that behave irregularly in English. They are different from normal verbs like “work, play, visit...” They give additional information about the function of the main verb that follows it. They have a great variety of communicative functions.

## Modals Review

- Modals are helping verbs.
- We use them with the base form of the verb, modals create verbal phrases.
- Modals do not change form.
- Modals never end in “s” even in 3rd person singular.
- We use ‘not’ to make modal verbs negative.
- Don’t use two double modals together.
- Modals do not have past tense forms, except could and would which serve as the past of can and will.

Modals	Usage
Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ability (in the present) – I can ride a bike.</li><li>• opportunity – She can help you learn to ride a bike, when she is finished studying.</li><li>• permission – Can I try to ride the bike now?</li><li>• possibility and conditional – Anyone can learn to ride a bike, if they are not afraid to try.</li><li>• request – Can you teach me to ride a bike?</li><li>• willingness -I can teach you.</li></ul>

<b>Could</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ability (in the past) -I could ride a bike when I was younger.</li> <li>• conditional – He could learn to ride a two-wheeler if his father removes the training wheels.</li> <li>• possibility – Pawan could be the best bike rider with some more practice.</li> <li>• suggestion – Mayank could ride his bike to campus, instead of driving his car.</li> <li>• request – Could I use your bike?</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polite request or permission – May I borrow your bike?</li> <li>• possibility – He may be able to help you assemble the bike tomorrow.</li> </ul>
<b>Might</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possibility, but not certainty – I might be able to let you borrow the bike, after I wash it.</li> <li>• conditional – This bike might be a good choice for cross country riding, if the seat is comfortable.</li> <li>• suggestion – You might want to lower the seat, so that your legs reach the pedals.</li> </ul>
<b>Must</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong obligation – You must return the bike, if you do not use it.</li> <li>• necessity -I must ride my bike to lose weight.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substitute must with "have to" – You have to return the bike, if you do not use it.</li> </ul>
<b>Shall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>formal invitation and future action – Shall I go bike riding together tomorrow?</li> </ul>
<b>Should</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild obligation, recommendation, advice – You should wear a helmet when you ride a bike.</li> <li>expectation – He should finish the race around noon.</li> <li>substitute should with "ought to" – You ought to wear a helmet when you ride a bike.</li> </ul>
<b>Will</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intent (in the future) – I will go for bike riding on Saturday.</li> <li>promise – We will definitely make time to ride together next weekend.</li> <li>prediction – The weatherman, however, reports that the winds will be strong.</li> <li>voluntary action -I will go anyway.</li> </ul>
<b>Would</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conditional -I would, ride the bike at night, if it had a light.</li> <li>past of will – He would ride his bike before he hurt his knee.</li> </ul>

We use the base form of the word with modals. Modals do not change form.

- He could ride for long distances. (Correct)
- He could rode for long distances. (Incorrect)

Modals never end in “s” even in the third person singular.

- She should peddle slower. (Correct)
- She shoulds peddles slower. (Incorrect)

Combine the base form of the verb with the modals – not with the infinitive ‘to.’

- He should ride with traffic. (Correct)
- He should to ride with traffic. (Incorrect)

We use ‘not’ to make modal verbs negative.

- I can not ride a bike.
- I could not ride a bike because I was afraid of falling.
- I may not be riding next weekend because I have to work extra hours.
- She might not wear a helmet, but she is careful when she rides.
- Bike riders under 18 years of age must not ride without helmets in Delhi.
- Riders shall not break the traffic rules.
- When using hand signals to indicate turning, riders should not use their right arm.
- He will not go riding when it rains.
- The bike club would not participate in the race because they objected to the high entrance fee.

To form questions:

- Can I teach you how to ride a bike?
- Should we ask your mother first?
- Might it help if I let her know that you’ll be wearing a helmet?
- Will you let me take the training wheels off?

Do not use two modals together.

- He could can fix the flat tire. (Incorrect)
- I will might enter the bicycle challenge marathon. (Incorrect)

## **More about Modals**

### **Must/ought to**

Must and ought to are used to show expression of necessity.

Example:

- You must come to the office at 9 o’clock.
- You ought to come to the office at 10’o clock.

Ought always comes with infinitive 'to' and must is used without 'to' Must not/mustn't and ought not/oughtn't

To make negative sentences we use must not or ought not.

Must not or ought not shows negative compulsion.

Example:

- She must not talk to his father like this.
- She ought not to talk to her father like this.

To show assumption

- She must be very popular.
- She ought to be very popular.

Expression of duty and obligation

- She must respect her family.
- You must love your work.
- She ought to respect her family.
- One ought to love his country.

To give advice

- She must concentrate on her work.
- You ought to drive with care.
- She must avoid fatty food.
- She ought to avoid argues with her elders.

To show certainty (of past events)

- He studied very hard he, must have secure first rank in the class.
- He started with lots of enthusiasm, he must have reached his destiny.
- She spoke very fluently, she must have won the first prize.

Must be / must have been (also shows certainty)

- He talks very impressively he must be an anchor.
- This team plays very well, it must have been a winning team.

Ought to have (Work that should be completed in the past but couldn't be completed)

- He ought to have appeared at the examination.
- They ought to have helped you in your need.

## **Need/Needn't**

Need is used to tell about necessity,  
(He, she) 's' in third person singular (I, u, or we) without 's'

- I need some water.
- He needs water.
- They need water.
- We need your support.
- I needed a pen.
- She doesn't need anything.

## **'Need' in a negative sentence**

In negative sentences, third-person also comes without 's'.

- He need not fear me.
- He need never fear me.
- He need hardly take my help.

"Need" in an interrogative sentence In interrogatives, (third-person without 's')

- Need you help him?
- Need she come with him?

"Need" with do interrogative

- Do they need to go with him?
- Does she need to go alone there?
- Do you need to behave like this?

## **Needn't**

- Needn't is used with both, singular as well as the plural form.
- Need not to go there?
- They need not to share it with you.
- We need not to take him in our team.

## **Dare / Dare not**

Dare is used to give challenge, and it is used according to number or person, in third person singular dares or dare with (I, we, you)

- He dares me to go alone in the dark wood.
- I dare you to compete with him.
- They dare me to do such a big task alone.

### "Dare" in negative sentences

In negative sentences, dare is used without 's' w

- He dare not to leave me.
- I dare not stand before him.
- You dare not ask me anything personal.
- She dare hardly speak before her father.

### Interrogative with dare

In interrogative, we use dare not dares,

- Dare he speaks before you?
- Dare he repeats the same mistake?

### Dare in 'do' interrogative (dare not dares)

- Does she dare to challenge you?
- Did she dare to slap her?
- Do I dare to stand before you?

### 'Dare not'

- She dare not to say a single word to me.
- I dare not to perform on such a big stage.

### Dare not have +past participle (to show the past unnecessary)

- He dare not have talked like this.
- You dare not have moved this heavy luggage alone.

### Used to

To tell the frequency and habit of past

- He used to come at my home to watch the TV.
- She used to try my outfits.
- They used to quarrel with their neighbour.
- I used to play the flute in my college days.
- I am used to this lifestyle.

### Negative and interrogative with 'used to'

- She is used to this type of climate.
- Did he use to wear this kind of dress?

To tell habitual of the thing, we use subject+ verb 'to be'+ used +noun / gerund

- I am used to this.
- She is used to this luxury life.
- He has to get used to traveling in crowded bus.

Do + used to

- He did not use to live life in this way.
- Did he use to live like this?

### Modals Exercises Solved Examples

Question 1.

Fill in the blanks using must, mustn't, don't have to, should, shouldn't, might, can, can't!

- (i) Rose and Ted \_\_\_\_\_ be good players. They have won hundreds of cups!
- (ii) You \_\_\_\_\_ pay to use the library. It's free.
- (iii) I'm not sure where my wife is at the moment. She \_\_\_\_\_ be at her dance class.
- (iv) Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ be working today. He never works on Sundays.
- (v) You \_\_\_\_\_ be 18 to see that film.
- (vi) You \_\_\_\_\_ hear this story. It's very funny.
- (vii) Dad \_\_\_\_\_ go and see a doctor. His cough is getting worse all the time.
- (viii) You don't have to shout. I \_\_\_\_\_ hear you very well.
- (ix) It \_\_\_\_\_ be him. I saw him a week ago, and he didn't look like that.
- (x) You look pretty tired. I think you \_\_\_\_\_ go to bed early tonight.
- (xi) Let me look. I. \_\_\_\_\_ be able to help you.
- (xii) "Children, you \_\_\_\_\_ cross the street if the lights are red!"
- (xiii) You \_\_\_\_\_ sit so near the TV. It's bad for your eyes.
- (xiv) I'm sorry but I \_\_\_\_\_ give you a lift because my car is broken.
- (XV) I \_\_\_\_\_ stop and talk to you now. I have to get to the library.

**Answer:**

- (i) must
- (ii) don't have to
- (iii) might
- (iv) can't
- (v) must
- (vi) must
- (vii) should
- (viii) can
- (ix) can't
- (x) should
- (xi) might
- (xii) mustn't



- (xiii) shouldn't  
 (xiv) can't  
 (xv) can't

**Question 2.**

Match 1 – 10 to a – j.

1.	It is a very good film.	a.	You needn't get up early.
2.	He is not sure now.	b.	You don't have to get up early
3.	She is so different.	c.	We can't miss it.
4.	It is the last train.	d.	We mustn't miss it
5.	It's Sunday today.	e.	You can be her sister.
6.	This is not free of charge.	f.	You can't be her sister
7.	I'll prepare breakfast myself.	g.	I have to buy a ticket.
8.	The coach leaves tonight and it takes twelve hours to get here.	h.	I must buy a ticket.

9.	Your address is the same.	i.	He may come tomorrow.
10.	We have plenty of time.	j.	He must come tomorrow

**Answer:**

- (i) (h)
- (ii) (i)
- (iii) (f)
- (iv) (d)
- (v) (b)
- (vi) (g)
- (vii) (a)
- (viii) (j)
- (ix) (e)
- (x) (c)

**Modals Exercises Practice Examples**

**Question 1.**

Fill in the blanks using Must, can't, may, might, could, should, shouldn't and the Past Form of them!

- (i) Sally looks worried. She \_\_\_\_\_ a problem with something. (Have)
- (ii) Bob \_\_\_\_\_ at school because I haven't seen him all day. (Be)
- (iii) I. \_\_\_\_\_ you the money. Why didn't you ask me. (Lend)
- (iv) Mr Travis hasn't come to work yet. He has never been late for work. He \_\_\_\_\_ the bus. (Miss)
- (v) She knew everything about on plans She \_\_\_\_\_ to our conversation. (Listen)
- (vi) A: will you come to my birthday party tomorrow afternoon?  
B: I'm sorry but I \_\_\_\_\_ because I have to look after my sister. (Come)
- (vii) Timmy is a very good boy. He isn't naughty, so he \_\_\_\_\_ that window.  
Somebody else \_\_\_\_\_ it (Break 2x)
- (viii) The street is wet this morning. I'm not sure but it \_\_\_\_\_ last night (Rain)
- (ix) She \_\_\_\_\_ like an angel I when she was a child (Sing)
- (x) A: I talked to your science teacher yesterday  
B: You \_\_\_\_\_ to her because she wasn't at school yesterday. (Talk)