

My

Modal Verbs

Practice Booklet



This Book Belongs To

made by





The Modal Verbs are used to express:



Obligation and Advice

have to + infinitive

strong obligation
(possibly from outside)

Example:

Children have to go to school.

Negative

no obligation

Example:

I don't have to work on Monday.

must + infinitive

strong obligation
(possibly based on the speaker's opinion)

Example:

I must study today.

Negative

negative obligation

Example:

You mustn't smoke here.

should + infinitive

mild obligation or advice

Example:

You should save some money.

Negative

mild negative
obligation or advice

Example:

You shouldn't eat a lot of sweets.

Ability

general ability

something that once you have
learned you can do any time you want.

can / can't

could / couldn't

will / won't be able to

Example:

We could have come earlier.

My grandfather couldn't swim.

I can play the piano.



specific ability

something that you can or can't
do in one particular situation.

can / can't

was able to / couldn't

could + have + past participle

Example:

We can't come now.

She was able to pass the exam.

He won't be able to play piano in 2 days.



Permission



'can', 'could' and 'may'
are used to ask for and give permission.

Example: Could I leave early today, please?
You may not use the mobile here.
Can we swim in the pool?



Habits

'will' and 'would'
are used to talk about habits or
things we usually do, or did in the past.

Example: John will always be late!



Probability

must / might / could / may / can't + infinitive

Example: Where is Sara?

She must be on the bus. (I'm fairly sure this is a good guess)

She could be lost. (maybe) **75%**

She may be in the wrong room. (maybe) **50%**

She might come soon. (maybe) **25%**

She can't be at home. (I'm fairly sure this isn't true)



Doubt



Put in 'can', 'can't', 'could' or 'couldn't' to complete the sentence then match to the picture.



_____ you
swim when you
were 5?

He _____
reach the party on
time after missing
the train.

She _____
speak 6 languages.

Mom looked
everywhere for
her glasses but
she _____ find
them.

Ken read the book
4 times, but he
_____ understand it.

Dad _____ lift
this book up, it's
too heavy.

My grandmother
_____ use
the computer until
last month.





Put in 'must' or 'have to'
in a correct sentence to describe the picture.



We have an exam tomorrow,

we _____.



It's raining outside,

he _____.



The traffic light is red,

you _____.



The weather is freezing outside,

Alex _____.



I have a bad headache, so

I _____.



She doesn't have any money,

She _____.





Put in 'must + infinitive' or 'must + have + past participle' to complete the sentences below then cut the pictures and paste them in front of the sentences.



Please Note!

'must + infinitive'
(for something that's likely about the present)
or 'must + have + past participle'
(for something that's likely about the past).

Lily always does really well on exams.
She _____ (study) a lot.

That woman drives a very expensive car.
She _____ (have) a lot of money.

Where is my purse? I saw it earlier,
so it _____ (be) in this room.

All my plants _____
(be) dead! I forgot to water them before I went on holiday.

David is so late! He _____
(miss) the bus!.

If you haven't eaten all day, you
_____ (be) hungry.



Cut out the pictures below





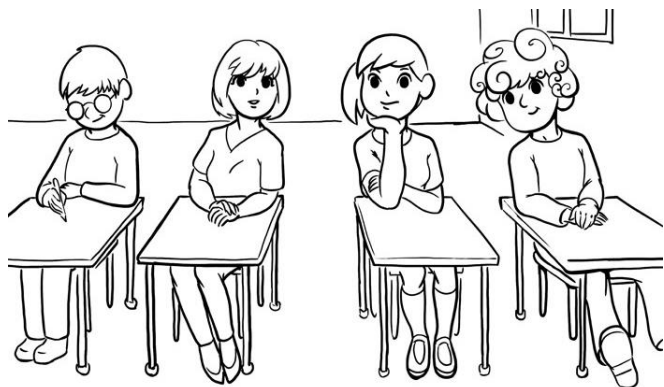
Use "should" & "would" to give advice in the following situations.



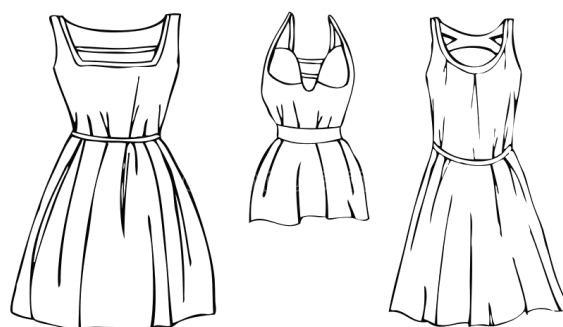
eat / vegetables / you



buy / shoes / those / I



attention / class / pay / he



wear / she / different / dress



play / soccer / house / not



he / car / mechanic / take



Look the picture and choose whether to put in 'must' or 'can't'.



The car in front is driving so slowly that I think they _____ be looking for something.

must can't



Emma's amazingly good at the piano. She _____ practice a lot.

must can't



This bill _____ be right! \$50 for two cups of coffee!

must can't



This _____ be Jamie's coat. He's tall and this is tiny.

must can't



Her life _____ be easy. She has four children and very little money.

must can't



What a lot of lovely flowers you have! You _____ really like gardening.

must can't