

Modal Verbs

Language Focus

- Can : Ability in present
e.g. What can we do to be a little environmentalist?
We can produce less waste.
- Could : Ability in the past
e.g. In the past, people could find a lot of clean beaches in Hong Kong.
- May : Possibility / Ask permission politely
e.g. Noise pollution may cause headache and make people nervous.
May I borrow your book?
- Must / Have to / Has to / Need to : Obligation
e.g. Why do we have to keep the bottles and cans?
We need to bring our own shopping bags.
- Should : Advice
e.g. We should avoid using plastic bags.
- Shall : Suggestion
e.g. Shall we pack those things now?
- Will : Prediction
e.g. People will collect the bottles and cans for recycling.

A. Write sentences using the suitable modal verbs.

1. In the library

can
mustn't
should

talk loudly in the library.
borrow up to six books each time.
turn off our mobile phones.

(a) We can borrow up to six books each time.

(b) _____

(c) _____

2. On the beach

have to
may
mustn't

go swimming when the red flag is hoisted.
warm up before we start swimming.
find small crabs and seashells on the sand.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

3. In the park

can
have to
mustn't

step on the grass.
see beautiful flowers and take a rest under the trees.
keep the facilities clean.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

4. When we take MTR

must
should
shouldn't

eat or drink on the train.
give our seats to the elderly.
Stand behind the yellow line.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

B. Choose the suitable modal verbs.

1. (May / Should / Must) I help myself to some more food?
2. Old Mr. Chan (can / could / will) sing well in his thirties.
3. (Will / Must / Shall) we prepare some gifts for the children?
4. Little Jamie (mustn't / cannot / needn't) wake up early every day. She only has lessons in the afternoon.
5. We (can / has to / should) keep quiet in the morning assembly.
6. Mrs. Tong (could / have to / has to) pick up her children at five o'clock every day.
7. Students (cannot / needn't / mustn't) bring their recorders tomorrow as they will practice singing.
8. We (cannot / can / needn't) save water and electricity when we take a shower.
9. We (mustn't / needn't / don't have to) take the lift when there is a fire.
10. Drunk driving (has to / may / shall) cause car accidents.

C. Fill in the correct modal verbs.

1. _____ I go to the washroom, please?
2. The kids _____ visit the Space Museum next Friday.
3. Mr. Tam is in hospital. _____ we visit him tonight?
4. The secretary _____ type 60 words in a minute.
5. Uncle Roy is a fireman. He _____ wear a uniform.
6. You _____ wash your hands before meals.
7. Grandpa _____ play the violin when he was young.
8. We _____ go to school on Sunday.
9. _____ you finish ten hamburgers in five minutes?
10. _____ we have dinner in a Japanese restaurant?
11. We _____ eat too much before we go swimming.
12. You _____ go to see the doctor. You look sick.

