

## Modal Verb Usage

## A. Complete the sentences with the words given.

can

can't

could

couldn't

was/were able to

1. On entering the house I \_\_\_\_\_ smell something burning in the kitchen.
2. Ann \_\_\_\_\_ read by now; she's already six!
3. I'm not very good at tennis, but yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ beat my brother.
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ run much faster when you were younger.
5. Although the policeman ran very fast, the thief \_\_\_\_\_ escapes finally.

could have + past participle

couldn't have + past participle

6. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at work yesterday. He was in Sydney, wasn't he?
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) killed in the car crash but luckily she survived.
8. Why didn't you visit me in Tokyo? You \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) in on me!
9. You \_\_\_\_\_ (do) it if you did try hard.
10. The old man \_\_\_\_\_ (kill) his wife! He was taken to the hospital.

must

mustn't

have to

don't / didn't have to

11. You \_\_\_\_\_ come if you don't want to.
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ be present at the lecture last Monday.
13. I \_\_\_\_\_ call my friend Lucy, we haven't talked for a few days.
14. We \_\_\_\_\_ turn over the test paper until the teachers tell us to do so.
15. We \_\_\_\_\_ hurry ourselves. There's plenty of time!

would like

would rather

wouldn't mind

16. She said she \_\_\_\_\_ telling me her name.

17. I \_\_\_\_\_ being alone for a few days.

18. The children \_\_\_\_\_ have an easier test.

19. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ to have a long vacation.

20. We \_\_\_\_\_ doing a few more exercises.

dare

dare not

need

need not

21. I \_\_\_\_\_ go into the house alone – it's too dark.

22. We \_\_\_\_\_ help her, she can do it on her own.

23. I \_\_\_\_\_ him to feed the crocodiles.

24. You \_\_\_\_\_ think too much. Take it easy!

25. James \_\_\_\_\_ us to join the marathon.

B. Complete the sentences with “must” or “have to (in its correct form)”.  
Use negation if necessary. Some questions may have more than one answer.

1. Well, it's 10.00. I \_\_\_\_\_ go now.

2. Ann wasn't feeling well last night. She \_\_\_\_\_ leave the party early.

3. Some children \_\_\_\_\_ wear uniforms when they go to school.

4. Last night Daniel suddenly became ill. We \_\_\_\_\_ call the doctor.

5. I'm afraid I can't come tomorrow. I \_\_\_\_\_ work late.

6. I'm sorry I couldn't come yesterday. I \_\_\_\_\_ work late.
7. Tom may \_\_\_\_\_ go away next week.
8. When you come to Hong Kong again, you \_\_\_\_\_ come and see us.
9. I don't want anyone to know. You \_\_\_\_\_ tell anyone what I said.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ wear a tie to work, but I usually do.
11. You \_\_\_\_\_ forget what I told you. It's very important.
12. I can stay in bed tomorrow morning because I \_\_\_\_\_ work.
13. Whatever you do, you \_\_\_\_\_ touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
14. She \_\_\_\_\_ get up so early on working days. She gets up early because she likes to see the sunrise.

C. Rewrite the sentences, keeping the meaning unchanged while the subjects have to be changed.

1. It isn't necessary to do the ironing today. (use "don't have to")

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2. It would be a good idea for you to leave early. (use "had better")

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3. Nobody is allowed to leave until the exam has finished. (use "mustn't")

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4. There's no need for them to call the doctor. (use "needn't")

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5. It's okay if you ask me to post the letter for you. (use "wouldn't mind")

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6. It's possible that I have left my book on the desk. (use "could have")

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7. It's impossible that he was in China because I saw him an hour ago.  
(use "couldn't have")

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8. She had the ability to save the child before the car exploded. (use "be able to")

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