

## Modal Verb Usage

A. Choose the best answer. There can be more than one answer for certain questions.

1. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ work seven days a week when she was in this company.  
(a) has to      (b) should      (c) had to      (d) could
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you like to try our special cocktail, Red Island?  
(a) Could      (b) May      (c) Should      (d) Would
3. I don't believe she \_\_\_\_\_ finish this very big bowl of noodles in just five minutes.  
(a) should      (b) would      (c) can      (d) must
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ touch this button. It's dangerous.  
(a) won't      (b) don't have to      (c) needn't      (d) mustn't
5. I've got a camera, too. \_\_\_\_\_ I bring it as well?  
(a) Should      (b) Shall      (c) Could      (d) Can
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I hand in my project a few days later? I need more time.  
(a) Should      (b) Shall      (c) Could      (d) Can
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you write down your telephone number and email address?  
(a) Shall      (b) Must      (c) Would      (d) Will
8. That \_\_\_\_\_ be true. Angela failed in the test! She is the best student in our class!  
(a) can't      (b) needn't      (c) shouldn't      (d) doesn't have to
9. What \_\_\_\_\_ you do when you were just two years old? Walk? Speak?  
(a) can      (b) should      (c) would      (d) could
10. What \_\_\_\_\_ we do first when there is a fire?  
(a) could      (b) should      (c) will      (d) may
11. What \_\_\_\_\_ we do tonight? Go for a movie or stay at home?  
(a) should      (b) must      (c) could      (d) shall

12. Do you think Jack \_\_\_\_\_ forgive me?  
(a) should      (b) must      (c) could      (d) shall
13. We \_\_\_\_\_ to choose another book. This one is too difficult for kindergarten students.  
(a) should      (b) must      (c) need      (d) may
14. \_\_\_\_\_ I ask you a question? It \_\_\_\_\_ sound stupid to you.  
(a) Can, should      (b) Could, may      (c) Could, has to      (d) May, shall

**B. Fill in the blanks with a suitable modal verb. There may be more than one possible answer.**

1. How many languages \_\_\_\_\_ you speak?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you like to pay by cash or by credit card?
3. "Remember: you \_\_\_\_\_ not use the lift when there is a fire," the fireman said to us.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ we hide behind the door and give Alex a fright?
5. Little John \_\_\_\_\_ already read when he was only three. He's such a clever boy.
6. Oh, I forgot your book. I \_\_\_\_\_ return it to you tomorrow.
7. Students \_\_\_\_\_ hand in their homework on time.
8. Sorry, I don't know you are talking on the phone. \_\_\_\_\_ I turn down the volume of the TV?
9. You \_\_\_\_\_ tell me the truth. Don't lie.
10. Your answer \_\_\_\_\_ be right, but I'm not sure.
11. "You \_\_\_\_\_ improve your English by reading more books," Miss Tam said.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I take your order now, sir?
13. I enjoy having dinner with you, Sue, but it's too late, so I \_\_\_\_\_ go home now.
14. You \_\_\_\_\_ sweep the floor! I swept it just a few minutes ago.

C. What happens in the following situations? Complete the sentences with the help of the words provided. The modal verbs and the words are all mixed up!

1. In a library,

can	write on the books
should	borrow books
mustn't	keep quiet

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

2. In a park,

may	see a bank
can't	pick the flowers
shouldn't	find small insects like

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

3. In an examination,

may not	open the books
must	have enough time
shouldn't	stop when the time is up

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

4. On a bus,

have to mustn't shouldn't	eat or drink put our hands out of the windows press the bell if we want to get off
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We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_.

5. When I was still a tennis player,

could had to couldn't	eat fatty food play tennis very well practice four hours every day
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I \_\_\_\_\_.

I \_\_\_\_\_.

I \_\_\_\_\_.

