

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

Modal Auxiliaries: Additional Exercises¹

- I. Complete the following sentences with correct modal (or semi-modal) auxiliaries taken from the list given below. Notice that in some cases more than one modal may be used. (*can, would, may, could, should, had better, must, have to, can't, couldn't, mustn't, don't have to*)
1. I forgot to close the door. _____ you mind closing it for me?
 2. I wrote this paper for my literature class last night. _____ you please read it over for spelling errors?
 3. I need a wheelbarrow. _____ I borrow yours?
 4. I want to buy a computer. _____ you give me some advice about buying a computer?
 5. It's cold in here. _____ you mind if I closed the window?
 6. Soldiers _____ disobey a superior officer.
 7. To stay alive, people _____ breathe oxygen.
 8. If you have an aquarium, you _____ give your tropical fish too much food or they'll die.
 9. Thank goodness we _____ eat fish again tonight. Dad didn't catch any today.
 10. A: (*you*) _____ leave so early?
B: I'm afraid I do. I have some work I _____ finish before I go to bed tonight.
 11. Last night, Jack _____ go to a meeting. (*you*) _____ go to the meeting last night, too?
 12. A: Ann would like to make some friends.
B: I think she _____ join some clubs to meet people with similar interests.
 13. Ellen is having a lot of trouble in her chemistry class. She's failed the last two tests. I think she _____ hire a tutor.
 14. Bruce has lost a lot of weight lately. He _____ go see a doctor.
 15. Fish _____ talk.
 16. I used to be a good swimmer. I _____ swim long distances when I was a teenager.
 17. Why _____ all the nations of the world just get along in peace? Why are there always wars somewhere on the earth?
 18. I _____ get to sleep last night because it was too hot in my room.
 19. My uncle was a wonderful craftsman. He made beautiful things out of wood. But he _____ read or write because he never went to school.
 20. My father never liked to talk on the phone. Whenever it rang, he _____ (*always, yell*), "I'm not here!" Usually, he was only joking and _____ (*come*) to the phone when it was for him.

¹ Adapted from: Azar, B. S. (2000). Understanding and using English grammar - Workbook (3rd ed.). White Plains, NY: Longman.

21. I'll always remember Miss Emerson, my fifth grade teacher. Sometimes a student _____ fall asleep in her class. Whenever that happened, Miss Emerson _____ throw a piece of chalk at the student!

22. I have fond childhood memories of my Uncle Joe. Whenever he came to visit, he _____ (*always, leave*) me a little present.

II. Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the words in parentheses. Add **NOT** if necessary for a sentence to make sense.

1. A: Where's Ann?

B: I don't know. She (*could + visit*) _____ her aunt and uncle right now. She usually visits them every Friday evening.

2. You (*should + watch*) _____ the movie on TV tonight. I highly recommend it. It's a classic.

3. I heard a loud crash in the next room. When I walked in, I found a brick on the floor, and the window was broken. Someone (*must + throw*) _____ the brick through the window.

4. Jack is in the employee lounge drinking coffee. He (*should + work*) _____ on his report right now. It's due at 3:00 this afternoon. He (*should + waste*) _____ his time in the employee lounge.

5. Do you hear the guitar music? Carla (*must + play*) _____ her guitar.

6. A: I need to see Tom. Where is he?

B: In his room. Knock on his door softly. He (*might + take*) _____ a nap.

7. Michael wanted to go to the opera, but he put off buying a ticket, and now they're all sold. He (*should + buy*) _____ his ticket weeks ago. He (*should + wait*) _____ until now to try to get a ticket.

8. Bob was stopped by a police officer last night. He (*must + drive*) _____ too fast when she clocked him on her radar. She gave him a speeding ticket.

9. The staff (*must + plan*) _____ very well for the luncheon. There are still about ten people waiting to eat, and there's not enough food left.

10. A: Where's your bicycle?

B: I don't know. One of my friends (*may + borrow*) _____ it.

Gee, I hope it wasn't stolen. Maybe Sally borrowed it.

A: Sally? She (*could + borrow*) _____ it. She has a broken leg. Why would she want to borrow your bicycle?

11. George didn't do very well on the test because he didn't understand what he was supposed to do. He (*could + listen*) _____ very carefully when the teacher gave the directions.
12. A: Joan was really upset when she found out that someone had told Alan about the surprise birthday party she gave him last night. She thinks Joe told him.
B: Joe (*could + tell*) _____ him about it. He was out of town until just before the party. He barely got there in time from the airport.
13. A: Art has two full-time jobs this summer to make some money for school in the fall. He (*must + have*) _____ very much time to rest and do other things.
B: That might explain why no one answered the door when I stopped by his house a little while ago. He (*must + sleep*) _____ .
14. A: Kathy just bought a new car, and now she's looking for a new apartment.
B: She (*must + make*) _____ a lot of money in her new job.

III. Taking into account the scenarios given below, complete the following sentences with the appropriate form of modal (or semi-modal) auxiliaries and the verbs given in parentheses (if any is given).

1. A: Look at all the children waiting for the bus. What time is it?
B: It _____ be after 3:00. That's when school is out.
2. A: George says that we're going to have a very high inflation rate next year.
B: He _____ be right. I think his view is as good as anybody's. I've heard strong opinions on all sides of that issue.
3. A: Have you heard anything from Ed? Is he still in Africa?
B: He _____ be, or he _____ already be on his way home. I'm just not sure.
4. A: Is that a famous person over there in the middle of that crowd?
B: It _____ be. Everyone's trying to get her autograph.
5. A: Isn't Peter Reeves a banker?
B: Yes. Why don't you talk to him? He _____ be able to help you with your loan.
6. A: The speedometer on my car is broken.
B: Do you think you're driving over the speed limit?
A: I don't know. I _____.
7. A: The Adams' house is dark and quiet. Their car isn't in the driveway.
B: They _____ be at home.
8. A: We had a test in class yesterday. Charles, who rarely studies and usually fails the tests, got 18 on it.
B: He _____ (study) a lot for the test.
9. A: That man sitting behind us has been talking throughout the movie. He knows what's going to happen before it happens.
B: He _____ (already, see) the movie.
10. A: Anita is in bed. The lights are out, and I can hear someone snoring.
B: She _____ (fall asleep).

11. A: Four people had dinner together. Two of them ate wild mushrooms, and two of them didn't. The two who ate the mushrooms are critically ill.

B: The mushrooms _____ (be) poisonous.

IV. Rewrite the following sentences using appropriate modal auxiliary verbs. Follow the example.

Examples: (a) The sky is getting overcast. It is quite likely that it rains tonight.

It MAY rain tonight.

(b) John is still little. I don't think he's able to lift that rock.

John CAN'T lift that rock.

1. No one is allowed to enter that room without an authorization from the boss.

2. No one is permitted to smoke in class.

3. The plane is expected to arrive in Mérida at 3 p.m.

4. John is supposed to report to the office in an hour.

5. When I was a child, I visited my grandparents every Sunday.

6. I promise to take you to the movies tomorrow night.

7. The phone is ringing. It surely is John; he always calls at this time.

8. Don't bother to borrow money from Mr. Miser. He is most likely broke now because he hasn't gotten his pay yet.

9. If you study hard for this course, you're surely going to pass it with a high grade.

10. Last night I got locked out. After many attempts, I managed to open the door with a hairpin.

11. Boy, I'm getting stronger! Yesterday, I was able to lift 200 pounds at the gym.

12. If you don't do your homework now, you're not going to the park tomorrow.

13. I've tried to convince John to work part time, but he refuses to work fewer than eight hours a day.

14. You already have 100 million dollars in your account. You don't need to work so hard.

15. As a secretary, Mary didn't earn enough to maintain her family; that's why she had to take a part time job in a restaurant in the evening.

16. Prof. Bratt always comes to class on time, but today she hasn't arrived yet. It's likely she had a flat tire this morning.

17. Don't worry, dear! I'm driving the children to school today.
