

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

Practicing Modal Auxiliaries

I. What would you say in the following situations?

1. You are in a restaurant. You have finished your meal and want to pay.
2. You are a car mechanic. A friend is in trouble because his car won't start.
3. A friend needs to get to the airport as quickly as possible. You have a car.
4. You have a cigarette but no matches. You see someone smoking.
5. You want to make a phone call, but you only have a one-dollar bill. There's a passer-by in the street.
6. Some friends want to go out tonight, but need someone to look after their children. You are free.
7. Your next-door neighbors' television is very loud and you can't sleep. You knock on their door.
8. A friend says, "I've got a terrible headache."
9. A friend says, "Poor Sue went to the hospital yesterday."
10. A friend asks you, "Are you still going out with Alice?"
11. A friend says, "This room's very cold."
12. A friend says, "Oh, dear! I can't do this homework."
13. A friend asks you, "Did you remember to book seats for the theater?"
14. A friend says, "I haven't got any money at all."
15. A friend says, "John and Ann have just had a baby."
16. You are in a crowded restaurant. You see a table with one chair free. You need the chair.
17. You are at a friend's house. You need to make a short, but very important phone call.
18. Your landlord has come to collect the rent, but you have no money.
19. You have to fill in a form, but you haven't got a pen.
20. Did you know John's in hospital?

II. Use an appropriate modal verb in order to make comments on the following issues.

1. Paul's hair is very long.
2. Mary's children are playing with matches.
3. Ted's wife suddenly became ill in the middle of the night.
4. I'm overweight.
5. It's the weekend.
6. You have too much money on you.
7. Your elderly parents are sick.
8. I have a really bad memory for phone numbers.

9. We're driving, and suddenly the traffic light is red.
10. There's a smoke detector in this room.
11. A father has found drugs in the possession of his teenage child.
12. The doorbell is ringing. I'm waiting for John.
13. You want some tea in your hotel room.
14. Yesterday, John didn't come to work.
15. Mary is a very punctual person, but she hasn't come to work yet.

III. Recast the following sentences using modal auxiliaries.

1. Jesús lived in the States for 10 years. He's able to speak English well.
2. That suitcase is very heavy. Let me help you carry it.
3. I wonder where we can go tonight, to the movies or to a disco.
4. It's not necessary for you to attend school on weekends.
5. It's unlawful to smoke in hospitals.
6. It's wrong to steal.
7. Ask John to feed the cat for you during your trip.
8. Find out whether Mary wants you to call her tonight or not.
9. Offer Mary to clean her room this weekend.
10. It's against the law to tamper with smoke detectors.
11. If you want to be rich, you have to work hard.
12. It's your duty to pay your taxes.
13. I demand that you come early.
14. You arrived at school at 8:30; you had to be here at 7:00.
15. Mrs. Jones was a wealthy woman; you didn't have to buy her presents.
16. Mary's late for work. There's no doubt that she is ill.
17. It's impossible to open this door without its key.
18. Arthur wasn't able to drive a car last year, but now he knows how to.
19. This is an easy exercise; I'm sure you're going to be able to do it.
20. John didn't call me. He was probably sick.
21. No one was allowed to leave early.
22. Am I permitted to open that door?
23. It is possible that John arrives tonight.
24. Perhaps the students are here.
25. Students are supposed to study every day.
26. The President was expected to give a speech last night.
27. Is it likely that we have a test next week?
28. There's a slim chance that it rains tonight.
29. There's a high probability that he loses weight.
30. The road was wet yesterday; there were probably many accidents.
31. There was no possibility that he won the lottery.
32. John smokes three packages of cigarette a day. He's bound to get lung cancer.
33. Everybody was expected to do their assignments.
34. Is it possible for you to lend me some money?
35. John worked all day last night. I'm sure he was very tired.