

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

- ◆ The verbs *can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, should* and *ought* are **modal verbs**. They do not take a suffix (-s, -ing or -ed). e.g. *He should stay here.* They are followed by a bare infinitive, except for *ought* which is followed by a to-infinitive. e.g. *They may come tonight. You ought to get a job.* They go before

the subject in questions and are followed by *not* in negations. e.g. *Can I say something? I couldn't understand him.* Modal verbs do not usually have tenses. They can refer to the present or the future. e.g. *I must go now. (present) You must call me early tomorrow morning. (future)*

Ability (Can-Could-Be able to)



He **was able to** climb up the tree.

Can is used in the present and future. *Could* is the past tense of *can*. We use **be able to** to form all the other tenses.

- ◆ **Can = be able to** - ability in the present
e.g. *Tom can play the guitar.*
- ◆ **will be able to** - ability in the future
e.g. *When you graduate, you will be able to get a job.*
But we use *can* when we decide now about something we will do in the near future.
e.g. *I haven't got any money now, but I can pay you tomorrow. (= I decide now about something I will do tomorrow.)*
- ◆ **Could = used to be able to**
ability in the past (repeated past action)
We can use *was/were able to* with no difference in meaning.
e.g. *I could/was able to run fast when I was young.*
- ◆ **was/were able to** = managed to do
ability in the past (single past action)
We use *was/were able to* to show that someone had the ability to do something in a particular situation in the past.
e.g. *Although it was dark, he was able to find his way.*
- ◆ We normally use **could** with the verbs *see, hear, smell, taste, feel, understand, guess* and *remember*.
e.g. *She listened carefully and she could hear people talking in the next room.*
(NOT: ... she was able to hear ...)
- ◆ In negations we can use **couldn't** or **wasn't/weren't able to** with no difference in meaning.
e.g. *I couldn't/wasn't able to reach him on the phone.*

Obligation/Duty/Necessity (Must-Have to-Should/Ought-Need)



Everyone **should** recycle their rubbish.

We use *must* to refer to the present or future.

- ◆ **must** = it is your duty/you are obliged to do sth
e.g. *You must listen to your teacher.*
- ◆ **have to** = it is necessary to do sth
e.g. *We have to be at the airport at 9 o'clock.*
We use *must* when the speaker decides that something is necessary. We use *have to* when somebody else other than the speaker has made the decision.
e.g. *I must finish the report by tomorrow. (The speaker decides.)*
I have to finish the report by tomorrow. (Somebody else has made the decision.)
- ◆ **Must and have to have different meanings in questions.**
e.g. *Must I tidy my room? (= Do you insist that I tidy my room?)*
Do I have to tidy my room? (= Is it necessary for me to tidy my room?)
- ◆ **Have got to** has the same meaning as *have to*, and is often used in everyday speech.
e.g. *'I've got to phone Mum tonight.'*
- ◆ We use *have to* when we need to use other tenses.
e.g. *We had to call for the doctor when Aunt Lucy fainted last night.*
- ◆ **should/ought** (less emphatic than *must*)
Should and ought express duty.
e.g. *People should take/ought to take better care of the environment.*
- ◆ **need** = it is necessary to
e.g. *Need I talk to the boss right away?*

NOTE: *Need* can be used as a main verb or as a modal verb with no difference in meaning. When it is used as a main verb it is followed by a to - infinitive and takes -s in the third person singular. We form questions and negations with *do/does*. e.g. *Mike needs to buy some new clothes. You don't need to do this right now.*
Need is used as a modal verb mainly in questions and negations. e.g. *Need I book a room in advance? (Also: Do I need to book ...?) You needn't give me a lift home. (Also: You don't need to ...)*

Absence of Necessity (Needn't/Don't have to/Don't need to- Didn't need to-Needn't have done)



- ◆ **needn't/don't have to/don't need to + present infinitive (present or future) = it isn't necessary to do sth**
 e.g. *You needn't/don't have to/don't need to work tonight. (It isn't necessary for you to work tonight.)*
- ◆ **didn't need to/didn't have to = it was not necessary to do sth**
 This structure suggests that an action did not happen in the past because we knew then that it was not necessary.
 e.g. *She didn't need to/didn't have to take a taxi. (It wasn't necessary, so she didn't.)*
- ◆ **needn't + bare perfect infinitive = it was not necessary to do sth, but it was done**
 This structure shows that an action happened in the past, even though it was not necessary.
 e.g. *You needn't have bought any bread. I'd already bought some. (It wasn't necessary, but you did.)*

Prohibition (Mustn't/Can't)



- ◆ **mustn't/can't = it is forbidden to do sth/you are not allowed to do sth/it is against the rules/law to do sth**
 e.g. *You mustn't/can't drive over 35 mph. (= It's against the law. You are not allowed to drive over 35 mph.)*

1 Fill in the gaps with *can, can't, could, couldn't* or *was/wasn't able to*.

- 1 I had my hands full, so I ...*couldn't/wasn't able to*... open the door.
- 2 When I was young, I stand on my head.
- 3 Although he felt ill, he finish all the paperwork.
- 4 Tony is clever. He speak three languages.
- 5 I afford that bag. It's too expensive.
- 6 Although it was dark, he find his way through the woods.
- 7 I heard his voice calling me, but I see him.
- 8 We're busy tonight, so we come to the party.
- 9 When I entered the house, I smell fresh bread baking.
- 10 I drive a car. I learnt when I was eighteen.

2 Fill in the gaps with *must, mustn't* or *needn't/don't have to*.

- 1 A: You ...*must*... study hard to pass the exams.
 B: I know. I study every evening.
- 2 A: You be late for your job interview.
 B: I know. I'll leave early so as to get there on time.
- 3 A: Shall I collect the children from the party?
 B: No, you collect them. Mrs Shaw is giving them a lift home.
- 4 A: Do you want me to wait for you after work?
 B: No, you wait. I can walk home by myself.
- 5 A: You interrupt while people are talking.
 B: No. It's very bad manners to do that.
- 6 A: My dog has been ill all week.
 B: Oh dear! You take him to the vet.
- 7 A: It's Sally's birthday on Wednesday.
 B: I know. I remember to buy her a present.
- 8 A: Shall I wash the dishes for you?
 B: No, you do that. I'll do them later.

3 Fill the gaps with *needn't have* or *didn't need to* and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I ran all the way to work, but I ...*needn't have hurried*... (hurry) because I was the first person to arrive.
- 2 We (hurry), so we stopped to have lunch on the way.
- 3 I went to college today, but I (go) as all the lectures were cancelled.
- 4 I (ask) the way to Lewes, since I'd been there before.
- 5 I (buy) any food, so I didn't go to the supermarket.
- 6 I (buy) any food after all, because we had plenty at home.
- 7 I (pack) my shorts, as it rained all week.
- 8 We (pack) many things, as we would only be away for one night.

UNIT 5 Modal Verbs

Logical Assumptions (Must-Can't/Couldn't)



They're wearing light clothes.
It **must** be summer.
It **can't** be winter.

- ◆ **must** = I'm sure/certain that sth is true
Must is used in affirmative sentences and expresses positive logical assumptions.
e.g. It is Sunday. He **must** be at home. (I'm sure he is at home.)
- ◆ **can't/couldn't** = I'm sure that sth isn't true, real, etc.
Can't and **Couldn't** are used in negations and expresses negative logical assumptions.
e.g. It is Sunday. He **can't/couldn't** be at work. (I'm sure he isn't at work.)

Probability (Should/Ought)



- ◆ **should/ought** = probably
Should and **ought** are used to express that something is likely to happen in the present or future.
e.g. It's 10 o'clock. He **should** be/**ought** to be at work.

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Look at the pictures and answer the questions using *must/can't*, as in the example.

e.g. *No, they can't be in the city.*

<p>A</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>D</p>
<p>Are they in the city? Are they tired? Do they know each other?</p>	<p>Do they go fishing often? Is it winter? Are they bored?</p>	<p>Did they walk up the mountain? Do they enjoy walking? Is the weather very hot?</p>	<p>Has she been interviewing the man? Is she a reporter? Are they in an office?</p>

Possibility (Can-Could/May-Might)



- ◆ **can + present infinitive** = general possibility - it is theoretically possible
This structure is used in affirmative sentences to show that something is possible theoretically or in general, that is, when we are not referring to a specific situation.
e.g. This road **can** get very busy.
(In general, not in a specific situation.)
Could/May/Might + present infinitive = it is possible/it is likely/perhaps
It is used to show that something is likely to happen in a specific situation.
e.g. The roads **could/may/might** get very busy tomorrow afternoon because there is a demonstration. (NOT: The roads ~~can~~ get ...)
NOTE: In questions we use **can** (to talk about general or specific possibility), **could** or **might**. We do not use **may**.
e.g. 'I got a bouquet of flowers, but there was no card.'
'Who **can/could/might** they be from?'
- ◆ **could/might + perfect infinitive** (refers to the past) = it was possible, but it didn't happen
e.g. Yesterday, I left the car unlocked. It **could/might have been stolen**, but luckily it wasn't.

Study these examples:

I'm sure she knows him well. Perhaps he will be late.	present inf.	She must know him well. He may be late.
It's possible that he's working late tonight. I'm sure she'll be working tomorrow.	present cont. inf.	He could be working late tonight. She must be working tomorrow.
I'm sure he didn't know the truth. Perhaps they have missed the bus. It's possible he had got lost.	perfect inf.	He can't have known the truth. They might have missed the bus. He may have got lost.
I'm certain he was sleeping . Perhaps she has been lying . It's likely they had been hiding .	perfect cont. inf.	He must have been sleeping . She may have been lying . They could have been hiding .

5 Complete the sentences using *must* or *can't*, as in the example.

- I'm sure she has gone on holiday.
She ...*must have gone on holiday*...
- I'm certain he doesn't know the secret.
He
- I'm certain Mike hasn't got a new car.
Mike
- I'm sure Susan has paid the phone bill.
Susan
- I'm sure they don't live here.
They
- I'm sure they left the party early.
They
- I'm certain he didn't call me.
He
- I'm certain Marie sent you a birthday card.
Marie
- I'm sure she has been keeping secrets from me.
She
- I'm certain she is looking for a new job.
She
- I'm sure David didn't go to the supermarket.
David
- I'm certain he is working at the library.
He

6 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- It's likely she has forgotten about the meeting.
She ...*may/might/could have forgotten about the meeting*...
- Perhaps he will be home soon.
He
- Perhaps we won't stay in a hotel.
We
- It's possible she has been delayed in traffic.
She

- It's likely they have gone to the cinema.
They
- Perhaps they are asleep already.
They
- It's likely he hasn't been promoted.
He
- It's possible she called while we were out.
She
- It's likely we will go shopping this afternoon.
We
- Perhaps he is outside in the garden.
He
- It's possible they didn't receive our message.
They
- Perhaps she is visiting a friend.
She

7 Fill in *can*, *can't*, *must*, *mustn't*, *needn't* or *have to*.

- A: Is Jason at work today?
B: He ...*can't*... be. His car isn't in the car park.
- A: I can't do my German homework. It's too difficult.
B: I'll help you. I speak German.
- A: I'm going to watch television.
B: Alright, but you stay up too late.
- A: We book a taxi to take us to the airport.
B: I'll do it now.
- A: I didn't know Rachel was in the choir.
B: Oh yes. She sing beautifully.
- A: Shall I cook dinner tonight?
B: No, you We're going to a restaurant.
- A: Has Tim bought a car yet?
B: He have. I saw him on the bus yesterday.
- A: She be very rich.
B: Yes. She's got a huge house and an expensive car.
- A: I did the washing-up for you.
B: Oh, you have, but it was kind of you.
- A: Would you like to come to my party on Saturday night?
B: I'd like to, but Mum says I visit my grandparents.

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

Permission (Can/Could/May/Might)



Asking for permission

- ◆ **Can/Could/May/Might I ...?** = Do you/Would you mind if ...?
Could and **may** are more polite than **can**. **Might** is formal. **May** and **Might** are used to ask for permission when we do not know the other person very well. We normally reply with: 'Certainly.'/ 'Of course.'/ 'Why not?'/ 'No, I'm afraid you can't.'
 e.g. 'Can I use your pen for a minute?' 'Of course.'
 'May I see the manager, please?' 'Certainly.'

Giving permission

- ◆ **can/may** = you are allowed to do sth
(can - informal, may - formal)
May is usually used in writing.
 e.g. You **may** make a phone call here.
We do not use could or might to give permission.
 e.g. 'Could I borrow your dictionary?' 'Yes, you **can**.'
 'Yes, you **may**.' (NOT: Yes, you ~~could~~)

Refusing permission

- ◆ **can't/mustn't/may not** = you are not allowed to do sth
May not is formal and is usually used in writing.
 e.g. I'm sorry, but you **can't/mustn't** use the fax.
 Customers **may not** enter this area.
We do not use couldn't to refuse permission.
 e.g. 'Could I stay a little longer?' 'I'm sorry, but you **can't**.' (NOT: I'm sorry, but you ~~couldn't~~)

Talking about permission

- ◆ We use **can** and **be allowed to** to refer to laws or regulations.
 e.g. All citizens over the age of 18 **can/are allowed to** vote. (law)

There is a difference in meaning between **may** and **be allowed to** in questions.

Study the examples:

- e.g. a) **May I** use your phone? (= Will you allow me to use your phone?)
 b) **Are we allowed to** use the office phone?
 (= What is the rule?)

- ◆ We use **could** or **was/were allowed to** to say that we had general permission to do something in the past.

We use **was/were allowed to** and not **could**, to say that we had permission to do something in a particular situation in the past.

e.g. I **could/was allowed to** go to parties when I was young. (I was allowed to go to parties in general.)

BUT: I **was allowed to** go to John's party last night. (NOT: I ~~could~~ go ... as this is a particular situation.)

8

Fill in the gaps with **could** or **was/were allowed to**.

- 1 The children ...were allowed to... go to the cinema on their own yesterday.
- 2 When I was young, we wear whatever we liked to school.
- 3 Peter watch a concert on TV last night, although it was on quite late.
- 4 When we were children, we play outside until it got dark.
- 5 Yesterday, we bring our favourite toys to school.
- 6 When Dennis lived with his parents, he come in at whatever time he liked.

9

Underline the correct word(s).

- 1 A: Could I sleep at my friend's house tonight?
 B: Yes, of course you **could/can**.
- 2 A: I **could/was allowed to** go to the disco last night.
 B: Was it good fun?
- 3 A: **Can/Might** I have a biscuit please, Mum?
 B: Of course. Help yourself.
- 4 A: Excuse me, sir. **May I/Am I allowed to** leave the room?
 B: Yes, but don't be too long.
- 5 A: **Must/Might** I borrow these files for a moment, sir?
 B: Certainly. Take whatever you need.
- 6 A: Might I use your pen?
 B: Of course you **may/might**.
- 7 A: **May I/Am I allowed to** park in the company car park?
 B: Of course you are!

Requests (Can/Could/Will/Would/
May/Might)



◆ **Can/Could/Will/Would you ...?**

We use this structure to ask someone to do something for us. **Can** and **will** are informal. **Would** and **could** are more polite than **can** and **will**.

e.g. **Can/Will you** get me a glass of water? (informal)
Could/Would you type these letters for me, please? (more polite)

We normally reply with: 'Yes, I'd (would) be happy to.' / 'Yes, I'd be glad to.' / 'Certainly.' / 'Of course.' / 'I'm sorry, but I can't.'

◆ **May/Might/Can/Could I ...?**

We use this structure to ask for something politely. **Might** is formal and is not often used.

e.g. **Can/Could/May I** have a piece of that cake, please?

We normally reply with: 'Certainly.' / 'Yes, certainly.' / 'Of course.' / 'Yes, of course.'

Offers (I'll-**Shall/Can/Could**)



◆ **I'll** = I'm willing to do something (informal)

e.g. You look tired. **I'll** do the ironing for you.

◆ **Shall/Can/Could I/we ...? = Would you like me/us to ...?/Do you want me/us to ...?**

e.g. **Shall/Can/Could I** give you a hand with the preparations?

Suggestions (Shall/Can/Could)



◆ **Shall I/we ...? / I/We can/could** } = Why don't we ...?/How about ...?/
What about ...?/Let's ...

e.g. '**Shall we** go to the theatre tomorrow night?'
'I'd rather not. We **can/could** go to the cinema instead.'

◆ We use **shall** in questions when we are asking for suggestions or instructions.

e.g. 'Where **shall I** put these flowers?'
'In this vase.'

Advice (Should/Ought/Must)



You **should** always wear a life jacket when you go canoeing.

◆ **should/ought + present infinitive = I advise you to/You had better do sth**

e.g. It's late. You **should go/ought to go** home as soon as possible.

◆ We use **must** to give strong advice. Compare the examples:

e.g. 'You **must** follow a healthy diet,' the doctor said to me. (an order which is likely to be obeyed)

e.g. 'You **should** follow/**ought to** follow a healthy diet,' my friend said to me. (a piece of advice which may or may not be followed)

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

Criticism (Should/Ought)



The owners **shouldn't have left/ought not to have left** the window unlocked.

- ◆ **should/ought + perfect infinitive = it would have been better if you had ...**
We use these structures to criticise someone else's actions.
 e.g. You **should have come/ought to have come** to me for help. (But you didn't.)

10 Fill in shall or will.

- 1 A: ...**Shall**... I help you with the washing-up?
B: No, I can manage by myself.
- 2 A: we have pizza for dinner tonight?
B: I'd rather have steak.
- 3 A: you carry this for me, please?
B: Certainly. It looks heavy.
- 4 A: What we buy for Bob's birthday?
B: I think he'd like a book.
- 5 A: you answer the phone, please?
B: Of course.
- 6 A: Where we sit in the classroom?
B: Next to the window.
- 7 A: you take the rubbish outside for me, please?
B: Yes, in a minute.
- 8 A: we have a barbecue next weekend?
B: Yes, if the weather's fine.
- 9 A: you babysit for me tonight?
B: I'm sorry, but I can't.
- 10 A: we try this new recipe tonight?
B: Yes. We've got all the ingredients.

11 Read the situations and complete the sentences with **should/shouldn't, ought to/ought not to** and the correct tense of the infinitive.

- 1 Your friend didn't see a film on TV last night. You saw it and it was very good.
You ...**should/ought to have seen**... (see) the film.

- 2 Liz bought an expensive jacket yesterday and now she hasn't got enough money for the rest of the week.
She (buy) such an expensive jacket.
- 3 Your sister eats a lot of junk food which is bad for her health.
You (eat) so much junk food.
- 4 Mr Jackson had a stiff back. He lifted some heavy boxes and now his back is worse.
He (lift) those heavy boxes.
- 5 Tony always drives too fast. Yesterday, he was arrested for speeding.
He (drive) more slowly.
- 6 Sally is clumsy. She is always breaking things.
She (be) more careful.
- 7 Paul didn't do his homework. The teacher punished him.
He (do) his homework.
- 8 Amy borrowed her brother's car without asking. He was very angry.
She (borrow) his car without asking.

12 Underline the correct word(s) in bold.

- 1 A: I found a briefcase on the train.
B: You **ought to/can** take it to the police station as soon as possible.
- 2 A: Did you get some money from the bank?
B: No, I **didn't need to/needn't**. I had enough in my wallet.
- 3 A: Sorry I'm late again.
B: You **should/might** wear a watch.
- 4 A: **Couldn't/May** I speak to Claire, please?
B: Just a moment, please. I'll call her.
- 5 A: We **could/must** go out for a meal this evening, if you like.
B: Oh, yes. That would be nice.
- 6 A: I wonder if Paul and Jim have got lost.
B: They **can't/mustn't** have got lost because I gave them a map.
- 7 A: **Could/Would** I use your telephone, please?
B: Yes, of course.
- 8 A: Was the exam very difficult?
B: Yes, but I **can/was able to** answer all the questions.
- 9 A: We **mustn't/needn't** go shopping this week. We've got plenty of food.
B: Alright. We'll go next week instead.
- 10 A: **Should/May** I sit down, please?
B: Yes, of course. Make yourself at home.
- 11 A: When **will/shall** I visit you next?
B: You **can/must** call in tomorrow, if you like.
- 12 A: Helen should be here by now.
B: She **ought to/could** have missed the train.

Expressions Similar to Modal Verbs

- ◆ **Be supposed to + infinitive** (= should)
This structure is used to show that someone else expects us to do something.
e.g. *I'm supposed to work this weekend. (My boss expects me to do so.)*
- ◆ **Be to + infinitive** (= must) is used to give orders.
e.g. *You are to stay here until I return.*
This medicine is to be taken three times a day.
- ◆ **Be likely to + infinitive/It is likely that + clause** (= probably - more emphatic than may but less emphatic than should/ought). They are used to express possibility.
e.g. *The Austrian racing driver is likely to win the race.*
It is likely that the Austrian racing driver will win the race.
Is Mary likely to get the job she applied for?

13 Match the items in column A to their synonyms in column B.

- | A | B |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 You mustn't ... | a You are supposed to ... |
| 2 You can't be ... | b It wasn't necessary for us to ... (but we did) |
| 3 You needn't ... | c Let's ... |
| 4 They ought to ... | d He managed to ... |
| 5 She didn't need to ... | e They had better ... |
| 6 You should ... | f It is forbidden ... |
| 7 May I ...? | g I'm sure they are ... |
| 8 We needn't have ... | h Do you mind if I ...? |
| 9 He was able to ... | i You are to ... |
| 10 Shall we ...? | j It isn't necessary for you to ... |
| 11 You must ... | k I'm certain you aren't ... |
| 12 They must be ... | l It wasn't necessary for her to ... |

14 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- 1 It is possible that Sue will be late this evening.
Sue may/might/could be late this evening./ Sue is likely to be late this evening.
- 2 I'm sure David isn't going to the party tonight.

- 3 The guests are supposed to arrive at 8 o'clock.
- 4 It wasn't necessary for Toby to go to school today.
- 5 I advise you to book a table in advance.
- 6 They are obliged to wear helmets at work.
- 7 You are to wait here until the manager arrives.
- 8 Steve managed to repair the bike after trying for two hours.
- 9 Perhaps we will go to Italy for a holiday next summer.
- 10 We are obliged to wear a uniform for school.
- 11 You aren't allowed to run in the corridors.
- 12 How about inviting some friends over to dinner?
- 13 It isn't necessary for you to buy me a present.
- 14 Do you mind if I use your telephone?
- 15 Would you like me to clean the windows for you?
- 16 How about going for a walk this afternoon?

15 Answer the questions using a suitable modal verb.



- 1 Are the men criminals?
They may be criminals.
- 2 Are they trying to escape?
- 3 Are they in the countryside?
- 4 Is it a cloudy day?
- 5 Is this their own boat?
- 6 Are they going to a hiding place?
- 7 Are the police chasing them?

UNIT 5

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Functions of Modal Verbs

Expressing ability

- a) Terry is twenty years old. He **can** drive a car. (present)
- b) When he was ten, he **could/was able to** ride a bicycle. (past repeated action)
- c) Paula **was able to** climb to the top of the mountain. (managed to do; past single action)

Expressing lack of ability

- a) Sue **can't** dance. (present)
- b) He **couldn't/wasn't able to** play chess when he was younger. (past repeated action)
- c) She **couldn't/wasn't able to** finish the book. (past single action)

Expressing obligation/duty/necessity

- a) You **must** attend the meeting. (You are obliged to/You have to/You need to/It is necessary.)
- b) I **must** attend the meeting. (I have decided.)
- c) I **have to** attend the meeting. (Someone else has decided.)
- d) We **ought to/should** respect the elderly. (less strong than must)
- e) **Need** I buy her a present? (Is it necessary?)

Expressing absence of necessity

- a) She **doesn't need to/doesn't have to/needn't** do the shopping. I'll do it later. (It isn't necessary.)
- b) She **didn't need to/didn't have to** do the shopping as I had already done it. (It wasn't necessary for her to do it.)
- c) She **needn't have done** the shopping. (It wasn't necessary for her to do the shopping, but she did.)

Expressing prohibition

You **mustn't/can't** be late for work. (it's forbidden/you aren't allowed to/it's against the rules/law)

Expressing certainty

- a) He **must** be at home. (positive; I'm sure he is.)
- b) He **can't** be sleeping. (negative; I'm sure he isn't.)

Expressing probability

He **ought to/should** be in now. (He is probably in.)

Expressing possibility

- a) It **can** get very hot in July. (it is theoretically possible)
- b) We **could/may/might** be a little late. (it is possible)
- c) He **could/might have been** injured. (but he wasn't)

Asking for permission

- a) **Can** I ask you a question, please? (informal)
- b) **Could** I ask you a question, please? (more polite)
- c) **May/Might** I ask you a question, please? (formal)

Giving/Refusing permission

- a) You **can** park your car here. (informal)
- b) You **may** park your car in this area. (formal - usually written)
- c) You **can't/mustn't** use this phone. (informal)
- d) You **may not** use this phone. (formal - usually written)

Talking about permission

- a) All students **can/are allowed to use** the library. (regulation)
- b) I **could/was allowed to go** out alone when I was 18. (general permission)
- c) I **was allowed to go** out alone last night. (permission for one particular action)

Making requests

- a) **Can/Will** you explain this to me? (informal)
- b) **Could/Would** you explain this to me? (more polite)
- c) **Can** I have some water? (informal)
- d) **Could/May** I have some water? (formal)
- e) **Might** I have some water? (very formal)

Making offers

- a) I'll help you with your essay. (I'm willing to help you.)
- b) **Shall/Can/Could** I carry this bag for you? (Would you like me to/Do you want me to do it?)

Making suggestions

- a) **Shall** we visit Grandma this weekend?
 - b) We **can/could** go to a concert tonight.
 - c) Where **shall** we go? (What is your suggestion?)
- } (Why don't we...?/How about...?/What about...?/Let's ...)

Giving advice

- a) You **ought to/should** study harder. (I advise you to)
- b) You **must** study harder. (I strongly advise you to.)

Expressing criticism

- a) You **ought to/should** have been more careful. (It would have been better if you had been more careful.)

16 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- 1 You had better ask your teacher to help you with your studies.
...You ought to/should ask your teacher to help you with your studies...
- 2 Can you hold this bag for me, please?
.....
- 3 Why don't we go for a picnic this weekend?
.....
- 4 It wasn't necessary for John to go to work because it was Sunday.
.....
- 5 We managed to do the puzzle, although it was difficult.
.....
- 6 You are to report to the manager as soon as you reach Manchester.
.....
- 7 You are forbidden to enter this area.
.....
- 8 Do you mind if I take this chair?
.....
- 9 You don't need to feed the dog. I've already done it.
.....
- 10 You ought to have locked the doors when you went out.
.....
- 11 I strongly advise you to take legal action.
.....
- 12 We are supposed to obey the law.
.....

17 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Shall I make you a cup of tea?
A Yes, please. B No, you won't.
- 2 Would you help me please? My car won't start.
A I'd be happy to. B Yes, I would.
- 3 Could you open the door for me, please?
A Yes, I could. B Of course.
- 4 Can you do the washing-up for me, please?
A No, I may not. B No problem.
- 5 We could go for a walk this afternoon.
A That's a nice idea. B No, we might not.
- 6 Could I sit down for a minute, please?
A Yes, of course. B No, you couldn't.
- 7 Can I get you anything, madam?
A No, you can't. B No, thank you. I'm just looking.
- 8 Can I go and play football now, please?
A Not at all. B Yes, if you like.
- 9 Shall I pick you up from work this evening?
A Yes, please. B No, you won't.
- 10 Will you hold this box for me, please?
A Yes, I may. B Certainly.

18 Complete the sentences, as in the example. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

Modal	Use
1 You ... <i>can</i> ... go to the cinema.	giving permission
2 You have any sweets.	refusing permission
3 we go for a walk?	making a suggestion
4 I stay at Paul's house tonight, please?	asking for permission
5 You have worked harder.	expressing criticism
6 You talk in the library.	expressing prohibition
7 Sally invite us to her party.	expressing possibility
8 They be lost.	expressing a positive logical assumption
9 You do your homework before you go out.	expressing obligation
10 She be older than me.	expressing a negative logical assumption
11 Steve walk. He's broken his leg.	expressing lack of ability
12 I paint the fence for you?	making an offer

19 Rephrase the following sentences in as many ways as possible.

- 1 Why don't we go to Spain on holiday this year?
...We can/could go to Spain on holiday this year....
- 2 Perhaps Tony has gone to work early.
.....
- 3 Policemen are obliged to wear a uniform while on duty.
.....
- 4 Simon managed to climb the mountain, although it was steep.
.....
- 5 It is forbidden to sound the alarm for no reason.
.....
- 6 How about watching a video this evening?
.....
- 7 I'm certain Martin heard me calling him.
.....
- 8 I'm sure Paul isn't an engineer.
.....

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

20 Choose the correct answer.

- ...**B**... I borrow your pen? Mine doesn't work.
A Needn't B Can C Ought
- I go to the bank. I haven't got any money.
A must B mustn't C may
- Lizzie spell her name before she was three.
A might B could C must
- you help me with the shopping, please?
A Must B Shall C Will
- You go to the post office. I'll go later.
A needn't B might C must
- You to study hard for your exams.
A need B can't C shall
- You to be at work by nine o'clock.
A must B should C are
- No reporters approach the scene of the accident.
A might have B were allowed to C needn't
- We phone Mary. It's her birthday today.
A needn't B ought to C are able to
- What time I pick you up from work?
A mustn't B will C shall

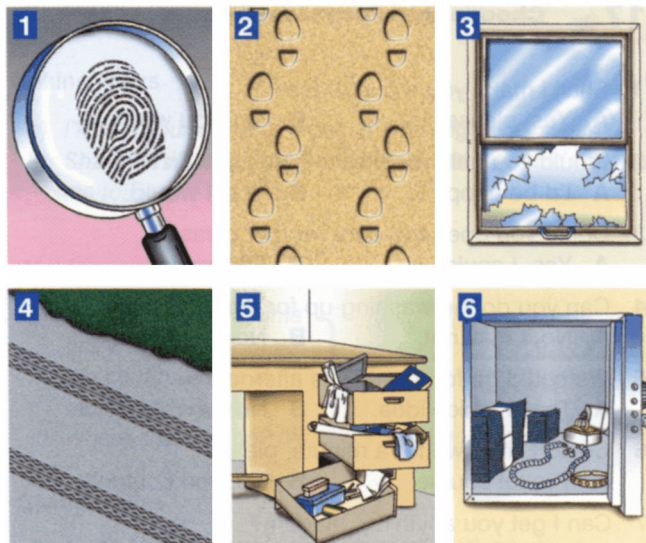
21 Choose the correct answer.

- 'You ...**C**... pay the bills today.'
'I know. I promise I won't forget.'
A would B shall C must
- '..... we go to the beach tomorrow?'
'Yes. That's a great idea.'
A Shall B Mustn't C Would
- 'I'm going to the cinema. Do you want to come with me?'
'No, thank you. I do my homework.'
A could B would C have to
- 'You put that shirt in the washing machine.'
'I know. It has to be dry-cleaned.'
A must B mustn't C couldn't
- 'Was your suitcase very heavy?'
'Yes, but I carry it by myself.'
A was able to B can't C ought
- '..... you drive?'
'Yes, but I haven't got my own car.'
A Might B Should C Can
- 'I ride a bicycle until I was eight.'
'Neither could I.'
A couldn't B could C can't

- '..... you open the door for me, please?'
'Yes, certainly.'
A Shall B Must C Would
- 'Ben had a hard time trying to find the leak in the pipe.'
'But he stop it, wasn't he?'
A was allowed to B was able to C could
- 'I saw Tina in town last night.'
'You have seen her. She's on holiday in Spain.'
A would B could C can't
- 'Where's Colin?'
'I'm not sure. He be in the study.'
A might B will C ought
- 'I feel very tired today.'
'You have stayed up so late last night.'
A shouldn't B could C might
- 'Did you phone Alan yesterday?'
'No, I He came round to see me.'
A didn't need to B needn't C have to
- '..... you give me a lift to work tomorrow?'
'Yes. I'll pick you up at eight o'clock.'
A May B Shall C Will
- '..... I help you, madam?'
'Yes, I'm looking for the manager.'
A Would B Must C May

22

Imagine you're a detective. You are at the scene of a crime and have found some clues. Look at the things you have found and answer the questions below using **must** and **can't**.



- Were the thieves wearing gloves?
...*They can't have been wearing gloves*...
- How many thieves were there?
- How did they get into the house?
- Did they have a getaway car?
- Were they looking for something?
- Did they want money?

IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 It's forbidden to go near the launch pad.
mustn't You **mustn't go** near the launch pad.
allowed You **aren't allowed to go** near the launch pad.
- 2 I advise you to send them a letter of apology.
should You **should send** them a letter of apology.
ought You **ought to send** them a letter of apology.
- 3 I'm certain Andrew didn't reveal your secret.
can't Andrew **can't have revealed** your secret.
- 4 Let's discuss this over lunch.
can We **can discuss** this over lunch.
- 5 Do you think Laura will leave for Chicago earlier than she thought?
likely Is Laura **likely to leave** for Chicago earlier than she thought?
- 6 It isn't necessary for Ron to pay for our tickets.
have Ron **doesn't have to pay** for our tickets.
need Ron **doesn't need to pay** for our tickets.
- 7 I'm sure Robert realised how wrong he was.
must Robert **must have realised** how wrong he was.
- 8 It is possible that they will sell their house.
may They **may sell** their house.
- 9 It wasn't necessary for her to come early, but she did.
have She **needn't have come** early.
- 10 Everyone is supposed to pay taxes to the government.
should Everyone **should pay** taxes to the government.

23 Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- 1 I'm sure the books are in this cupboard.
must The books ...*must be in this*... cupboard.
- 2 Let's have lunch in half an hour.
can We in half an hour.
- 3 It isn't necessary for you to work on Saturday.
have You on Saturday.
- 4 I advise you to open a bank account.
should You a bank account.
- 5 It is possible that she has forgotten to call.
may She to call.
- 6 It wasn't necessary for him to buy a gift, but he did.
have He a gift.
- 7 Perhaps Alice is at the hairdresser's.
could Alice the hairdresser's.
- 8 I advise you to have your car serviced.
should You car serviced.
- 9 I'm sure Sylvia didn't mean what she said.
can't Sylvia what she said.

- 10 It wasn't necessary for him to help me, but he did.
have He me.
- 11 It's forbidden to take your bag into the building.
mustn't You into the building.
- 12 I'm sure she understood what I was saying.
have She what I was saying.
- 13 Perhaps he took the train to work this morning.
may He the train to work this morning.
- 14 Running in the corridors is forbidden.
allowed You in the corridors.
- 15 Is it possible that Jane is leaving school at the end of this week?
be Could at the end of this week?
- 16 We'll probably have a party for Simon's birthday.
likely It's a party for Simon's birthday.
- 17 I'd better start studying for my exams soon.
ought I for my exams soon.

24 Underline the correct word(s).

- 1 A: **Shall/Would/Could** I speak to the manager, please?
B: I'm afraid he's busy at the moment.
- 2 A: The Taylors brought us a bouquet of flowers for our anniversary.
B: They **needn't/couldn't/mightn't** have done that, but it was very kind.
- 3 A: **Could/May/Shall** you tell me where the bank is, please?
B: Certainly. It's on the corner.
- 4 A: You **mustn't/needn't/couldn't** clean the floor.
B: Oh, have you done it already?
- 5 A: **Would/Shall/Will** we go for a walk this afternoon?
B: Why not? It's a lovely day.
- 6 A: **Can/Shall/Would** I have a milkshake, please?
B: Yes, of course. What flavour would you like?
- 7 A: **May/Should/Would** I borrow your pen, please?
B: Yes, of course. Be my guest.
- 8 A: **Shall/Will/Would** I pour you a glass of orange juice?
B: Yes, please. **Could/May/Shall** you put some ice in it, too?
- 9 A: I put your blue trousers in the washing machine.
B: Oh, no! You **shouldn't/mustn't/can't** have done that. They have to be dry-cleaned.
- 10 A: Where's Alan?
B: Well, it's five o'clock. He **ought/mustn't/needn't** to be here by now.
- 11 A: What are you doing on Saturday morning?
B: I **have to/will/should** go into the office for a couple of hours.
- 12 A: I want to get a better job.
B: You **didn't need to/should/needn't** get some more qualifications.

UNIT 5

Modal Verbs

25

Add the correct prefixes to form derivatives.

- Carl is very ...*anti*...social and doesn't like to be with other people.
- The fact that Tony and Sue caught the same plane was aincidence.
- Simon islingual — he is fluent in both French and English.
- The thieves managed toactivate the alarm before entering the building.
- This exam gives you annationally recognised degree.
- I forgot to set my alarm and Islept.
- After the earthquake, the town was slowlybuilt.
- Tara was so nasty to Bob — her behaviour wasforgivable.
- Brian had towrite several chapters of his book before it could be published.
- Daniel is veryreliable — he never turns up for anything.

26

Fill in the the blanks with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- His ambition in life is to become a famous ...*actor*... (act)
- The fireworks at the party were very (impress)
- Body language is an important part of (communicate)
- He is very and uses hand gestures to emphasise whatever he says. (express)
- The was very proud of his time machine. (invent)
- Many jobs require workers to wear clothing. (protect)
- The from the gas plant took us all by surprise. (explode)
- His most valuable is a gold pocket-watch. (possess)
- Her knowledge of the region is quite (extend)
- She has an amazing of seashells. (collect)
- One of the most popular at the funfair is the Ghost Train. (attract)
- Claire is a girl and gets upset very easily. (sense)
- The audience showed their of the performance by cheering loudly. (appreciate)
- Although she will be ninety this year, she is still a very woman. (act)
- These chemicals are and should be treated with extreme care. (explode)
- We could tell from the on his face that he was very angry. (express)

Common mistakes

- You **should** to exercise regularly. *X*
You **should exercise** regularly. ✓
- I **must** study very hard last week. *X*
I **had to** study very hard last week. ✓
- Although he didn't feel well **yesterday**, he **could** finish his work. *X*
Although he didn't feel well **yesterday**, he **was able to** finish his work. ✓
- Need I to pay** cash for my ticket? *X*
Need I pay cash for my ticket? ✓
- The shops **can be very crowded tomorrow** because it's the last shopping day before Christmas. *X*
The shops **could/may/might be very crowded tomorrow** because it's the last shopping day before Christmas. ✓
- May** this letter be from my friend? *X*
Can/Could/Might this letter be from my friend? ✓
- 'Could you lend me some money?' '**Of course I could.**' *X*
'Could you lend me some money?' '**Of course I can.**' ✓
- I **could watch** the late film on TV last night. *X*
I **was allowed to watch** the late film on TV last night. ✓

27

Correct the mistakes.

- 'Could you help me lift this box?' 'Of course I could.'
- I could go to Emma's party last Saturday.
- Need I to book a table in advance?
- May these flowers be from your fiancé?
- Although she was exhausted, she could finish the race.
- You should to brush your teeth twice a day.
- I must have my car repaired last month.
- The bus can be late today because there is a lot of traffic.

28

Cross out the unnecessary word.

- They shouldn't to have called the police.
- Paul was been able to change the flat tyre by himself.
- She needn't to have bought such an expensive dress.
- The Prime Minister is to will give a speech at the conference tomorrow.
- Jennifer is likely that to look for another job.
- How about we driving to the coast?
- That can't to have been Paul. He's on holiday in Jamaica.
- Would you mind if my staying here for a couple of days?
- They might have been forgotten about our meeting.
- Jack has had to see the General Manager yesterday.

Phrasal Verbs

- get across:** (tr) communicate ideas; become understood
- get along (with):** be on friendly terms; **get on (with)**
- get at:** 1) (tr) reach; find, 2) (int) imply
- get away:** avoid capture
- get away from:** avoid
- get away with:** (tr) 1) escape punishment for wrongdoing, 2) escape capture with stolen goods
- get by:** (int) survive despite difficulties
- get down to:** (tr) start doing sth seriously
- get off:** 1) (int) avoid punishment, 2) start a journey
- get off with:** (tr) not be punished; be treated leniently
- get on:** 1) (int) advance; make progress, 2) become late; get nearer 3) (int) have a friendly relationship with;
- get on with:** (tr) 1) be on good terms with; **get along with**, 2) continue after an interruption
- get over:** 1) recover, 2) overcome
- get round:** (int) to spread (news)
- get round to:** (tr) find the necessary time to do sth
- get through:** 1) (tr) finish (a piece of work), 2) (int) survive through difficult times, 3) (tr) use up all of sth (supplies, money, etc), 4) (tr) reach sb by telephone; **get through to**
- get to:** (tr) have an effect on sb's feelings

29

Fill in the correct particle.

- 1 I generally get ...*on/along with*... my boss, although we disagree sometimes.
- 2 You really must get work. The exams start next week!
- 3 The teacher tried to get the main ideas of the theory to her class without confusing them.
- 4 We have to get early to get to London on time.
- 5 I haven't got ironing those clothes yet. I've been very busy.
- 6 I earn enough money to get, but I haven't managed to save much lately.
- 7 I don't understand what you're getting Can you explain what you mean?
- 8 We get two loaves of bread a day.
- 9 After the phone call, I got my work.
- 10 Because it was his first offence, he got a warning from the judge.

- 11 There's no getting paying taxes.
- 12 What he said really got her, and she started to cry.
- 13 Despite the cold, they got the winter without too many problems.
- 14 Bill got his illness quickly and returned to work.
- 15 By the time we got home, it was getting for midnight.
- 16 The burglars got the jewellery.
- 17 After several attempts, I finally got the radio station.
- 18 No one should get breaking the law.
- 19 The news got the office fast.
- 20 No problem is too big to get
- 21 The thieves managed to get even though the police were looking for them.
- 22 I can't get that box because the shelf it's on is too high.
- 23 Susan got the work quickly, so she was able to leave early.

30

Underline the correct preposition.

- 1 I have a high opinion of/on/for Sarah's teacher.
- 2 Tom refused to join on/of/in the football match.
- 3 I've lost my earring. Will you help me look after/for/at it?
- 4 I need someone to look at/after/for my children while I'm at work.
- 5 I looked closely after/at/for the man, but I didn't recognise him.
- 6 I mistook that woman for/of/about my French teacher.
- 7 She earns hardly enough money to live on/with/for.
- 8 Since the company changed management there has been an increase on/of/in profits.
- 9 It is rude to laugh at/with/for other people.
- 10 What he lacks of/in/to size he makes up for in strength.
- 11 Her lack of/in/with confidence was the reason she didn't get the job.
- 12 I have no intention of/for/to selling my car.
- 13 There is no need of/about/for such childish behaviour.
- 14 Some people had objections about/to/for the proposed changes.
- 15 The new teacher made a great impression on/by/with the class.
- 16 The manager was impressed with/on/of the new player's technique.
- 17 Jane likes to be comfortable, so she is not keen in/at/on camping.
- 18 Sam is keen on/to/of join the army when he leaves school.
- 19 Take no notice from/for/of Amanda. She's showing off.
- 20 I don't want to get involved on/about/in this argument.
- 21 Julia insisted in/for/on paying for lunch.
- 22 She is completely ignorant for/about/to computer technology.

Revision Box

31 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.



Dear Phil,

I 1) *'m writing*... (write) to tell you about the plans for the school Summer Fun Day. We 2) (already/put) some tables in the school field, but I don't think there 3) (be) enough, so we 4) (probably/borrow) some more.

I 5) (arrange) for the mayor to come and open the event. He 6) (arrive) at ten o'clock on the day and the headmaster, Mr Pearson, 7) (take) him on a guided tour of the school.

We 8) (go) shopping yesterday to buy some prizes for the competitions. We also 9) (buy) some coffee, tea, orange juice and biscuits for the refreshments stall.

Anyway, as you can see, everything is almost ready. I hope everything 10) (go) well. See you on Saturday at the fair!

Lily

32 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: What does Tony do for a living?
B: He *...works...* (work) for a large company in London.
- 2 A: Are you busy this evening?
B: Yes. I (meet) some friends at eight o'clock.
- 3 A: Mum (bake) all morning.
B: I know. She (make) a lot of cakes.
- 4 A: Is Simon going to school today?
B: No. He (feel) ill all week, so he's going to stay in bed.

- 5 A: (you/ever/go) to Spain?
B: No, but Chris (go) there last summer.
- 6 A: Were you at home when I called you?
B: Yes, but I (cut) the grass and I didn't hear the phone.
- 7 A: Steve is a famous singer now.
B: Yes. He (make) his first record in 1993.
- 8 A: Why did you pay for the meal last night?
B: Because Joe (lose) his wallet, so he couldn't pay.
- 9 A: Why are you in such a hurry?
B: Because I'm going to the theatre and the play (start) in ten minutes.
- 10 A: Shall we go for a picnic tomorrow?
B: I can't. My cousins (come) to visit tomorrow.
- 11 A: I can't believe we're going on holiday in a few days.
B: Just think. This time next week, we (ski) in the Alps.

33 Choose the correct answer.

When Simon woke up, he knew it 1) *...B...* a good day. The sun was shining through the curtains and he felt strangely 2) Today was 3) day he had been waiting for. Six weeks 4), Simon had taken his school exams. He had been 5) nervous, but he had told himself, '16) for months and I know I can pass. I'll stay calm and, by the time the exam finishes, I'll have answered every question as 7) as I can.'

And now the day when Simon would 8) his results had come. He ran down the stairs and picked up the large envelope which 9) on the mat. His hands were shaking as he read the results. He 10) with top marks!

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 A is going to be | B was going to be | C will be |
| 2 A excited | B excite | C exciting |
| 3 A one | B the | C a |
| 4 A since | B before | C after |
| 5 A very | B far | C much |
| 6 A have been studying | B had been studying | C was studying |
| 7 A good | B well | C best |
| 8 A to get | B getting | C get |
| 9 A was lying | B lies | C is lying |
| 10 A passed | B had passed | C has passed |

Revision Box

34 Underline the correct word.

- 1 Tony's new job involves **travelling/to travel** around the country.
- 2 David is eighteen. He is too old **to join/joining** the youth club.
- 3 We considered **to go/going** to France, but then we decided **to go/going** to Italy.
- 4 Sarah learnt how **to sew/sewing** when she was eight.
- 5 The thief finally confessed to **steal/stealing** the jewels.
- 6 I regret **to speak/speaking** so angrily to my brother.
- 7 Try **eat/eating** more fruit. You will feel much healthier.
- 8 Mary is busy **to clean/cleaning** the house.
- 9 He would like **going/to go** to the cinema this evening.
- 10 Gary opened the door only **to find/finding** that there was nobody there.

35 Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- 1 We haven't been on holiday for five years.
since It's ...*five years since we went*... on holiday.
- 2 The last time she went to a party was three months ago.
been She
a party for three months.
- 3 I've never heard such a funny joke.
funniest It's I've ever heard.
- 4 How long ago did you take your driving test?
took How long
your driving test?
- 5 He hasn't tidied his room yet.
still He his room.
- 6 'No, I didn't take your wallet,' the young man said.
denied The young man
my wallet.
- 7 Mark is more energetic than his brother.
as Mark's brother isn't
Mark.
- 8 He is interested in literature. That's why he buys so many books.
finds He
That's why he buys so many books.
- 9 Sally is the most graceful dancer of all.
as No one else
Sally does.
- 10 They made me reveal the secret.
was I the secret.

ORAL Activity

Look at the pictures and the prompts below and, in pairs, ask and answer questions using appropriate modal verbs, as in the example.

e.g. SA: *Is he happy?*

SB: *He can't be happy. He must be angry, etc.*



- 1 Is he happy?
- 2 Is he a businessman?
- 3 Does he want someone to help him?
- 4 Is he worried about something?



- 1 Have they jumped out of a plane?
- 2 Are they frightened?
- 3 Do they enjoy doing this?
- 4 Will they land safely?



- 1 Is he at school?
- 2 Is he enjoying himself?
- 3 Is he jumping up and down?
- 4 Will he be told off by his parents?



- 1 Has she been sleeping?
- 2 Is it late at night?
- 3 Has the phone call woken her up?
- 4 Is it an emergency?