



# MODAL VERBS. key

## **CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT, BE ABLE**

**TO:** Some of these contain mistakes with modal verbs. Tick the correct ones and correct the wrong ones.

1. When I finish the course next year I can speak perfect French.
2. This computer is so simple that it is able to be operated by anyone.
3. The job interview was a disaster; I could only answer half the questions!
4. When she was riding in the woods last week, Helen fell off her horse but luckily she could get back on and ride home.
5. It's really annoying. Surely you knew they didn't accept traveller's cheques at that hotel. You could warn me before!
6. These days she is rather slow but as a child she could run like the wind.
7. There can be life on Saturn.
8. My father could be a star in the 1980s, it's a pity that he never really tried.
9. Don't get too anxious; there may well be a simple explanation for it.
10. I'm not sure about tomorrow night. I may be on call.

## **MUST, SHOULD, OUGHT TO, HAVE**

**TO, NEED TO:** Underline the best choice in each of the sentences.

1. *To must / having to* listen to hip-hop music all evening is my idea of torture!
2. Do you know if we *must / have to* have visas for the Caribbean?
3. The newspaper *shouldn't have / mustn't have* printed the rumour without concrete evidence.
4. What a state my shoes are in! They *need / must* repairing.

5. We *have to / are supposed to* put our bags in the lockers, but most people take them into the gym.
6. Polite notice: children *do not have to / are not allowed to* play on the grass.
7. With our new range of hair products, you *mustn't / don't have to* spend hours caring for your hair.
8. There wasn't anyone on the nightclub door so we *didn't need to show / needn't have shown* proof of our age.
9. As we're getting a lodger, we'd *better / better to* have some more keys cut.
10. You *won't have to / had better* not tell Shirley what you saw - it will only upset her and she'll blame you.

**WILL, WOULD, SHALL:** Circle the correct meaning or interpretation *a* or *b* for each sentence.

1. If anyone rings in the next few minutes, I'll be in the storeroom.  
a) I'm in the storeroom now.  
b) I'm going to the storeroom.
2. Ralph isn't here right now, I'm afraid. He'll be at the office.  
a) He is at the office now.  
b) He's on his way to the office.
3. It's a relief that Annie's changed class. She would argue with everything I said.  
a) I didn't mind the arguments.  
b) The arguments annoyed me.
4. The secretary shall minute the proceedings of each meeting.  
a) the secretary is offering to do it.  
b) The secretary is instructed to do it.

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**TO:** Some of these contain mistakes with modal verbs. Tick the correct ones and correct the wrong ones.

3. When I finish the course next year I can speak perfect French. **WILL BE ABLE TO**

4. This computer is so simple that it is able to be operated by anyone. **CAN**

5. The job interview was a disaster; I could only answer half the questions! ✓

6. When she was riding in the woods last week, Helen fell off her horse but luckily she could get back on and ride home. **WAS ABLE TO / MANAGED TO**

7. It's really annoying. Surely you knew they didn't accept traveller's cheques at that hotel. You could warn me before! **COULD HAVE WARNED**

8. These days she is rather slow but as a child she could run like the wind. ✓

9. There can be life on Saturn. **MAY/ MIGHT/COULD**

10. My father could be a star in the 1980s, it's a pity that he never really tried. **COULD HAVE BEEN**

11. Don't get too anxious; there may well be a simple explanation for it. ✓

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## MUST, SHOULD, OUGHT TO, HAVE

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