

Home school

Additional exercises: modals

1) Complete the sentences using can or (be) able to. Use can if possible; otherwise use (be) able to.

- 1 Gary has travelled a lot. He _____ speak five languages.
- 2 I haven't _____ sleep very well recently.
- 3 Nicole _____ drive, but she doesn't have a car.
- 4 I used to _____ stand on my head, but I can't do it anymore.
- 5 I can't understand Mark. I've never _____ understand him.
- 6 I can't see you on Friday, but I _____ meet you on Saturday morning.
- 7 Ask Katherine about your problem. She might _____ help you.

2) Complete the following sentences using can, could or could have.

- 1 I want to get some sleep this afternoon so that I _____ stay awake all night tonight.
- 2 If animals _____ talk, what would they tell us?
- 3 We weren't very busy yesterday, so we _____ come if you'd asked us.
- 4 Do you have anything in this shop that _____ take ink off fingers?

- 5 I was so pleased when the girl told me she had the shoes I wanted in my size that I _____ kissed her.
- 6 Let's make a list of the things we _____ do this weekend.
- 7 Try to think of all the places where you _____ left your umbrella.
- 8 When I was young I _____ run a marathon.
- 9 All of this bother _____ been avoided if you had asked my advice in the first place.
- 10 _____ I have a clean knife, please?

3) Rephrase the following sentences using may or might.

Example

Question: Perhaps they will come back again later. (may)

Answer: They may come back again later.

- 1 Perhaps his greatest achievement is having climbed Mount Everest at the age of 56. (may)

- 2 Perhaps she has forgotten all about us. (may)

- 3 Maybe he won't tell anyone what you said. (might)

- 4 Possibly he hasn't seen the advertisement for the job. (may)

- 5 This is perhaps an indication that your plants are not getting enough water. (might)

6 Perhaps this plant would grow better in a different part of the garden. (might)

7 Perhaps I didn't read the instructions carefully enough. (may)

8 This is possibly a clue to the murder. (might)

9 Maybe they will let us use the tickets tomorrow instead of today. (may)

10 It's possible that they were at the concert but I didn't see them. (may)

4) Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with will, shall, would or should.

1 She _____ rather give her money to charity than spend it on herself.

2 They _____ have got here by now. I wonder where they can be.

3 Hurry up! The film _____ have started by the time we get there.

4 It's quite ridiculous that someone _____ accuse him of spying.

5 _____ you like to sit here beside me?

6 _____ anyone ask where I am, tell them I'm at a meeting.

- 7 It's very important that everyone _____ attend the meeting.
- 8 Let's go to the zoo, _____ we?
- 9 _____ you open that door for me, please.
- 10 Why _____ I always have to walk the dog?

5) Complete the following sentences with can, can't, must, have to, etc. as appropriate. There may be more than one correct answer.

- 1 'That _____ be true! I just don't believe that John would ever steal money from the company.'
 'Well, it _____ be true. He's been arrested.'
- 2 I can smell Jean's perfume; so she _____ be in the office somewhere. She _____ be far away.
- 3 I wasn't able to be at the meeting last night because I _____ work late at the office.
- 4 We _____ tell Sheila what Tom said about her. She _____ never know.
- 5 'I can hear a car outside.'
 'That _____ be Simon.'
 'No, it _____ be Simon. It's only five o'clock. He should still be at work.'
 'But it _____ be well after five now. The boys came in from school ages ago.'
 'Well, according to the clock, it's only five o'clock.'
 'The clock _____ be slow, then.'
- 6 'We haven't seen Tom and Alice for ages. We _____ ask them round to dinner on Saturday.'

'We _____ ask them round on Saturday. We _____ go to Nancy's concert, remember?

7 Sorry, I can't stop and talk to you now, I _____ get to the library before it closes.

8 Why _____ men always talk about football, football, football?

9 'You _____ come with us if you don't want to.'
'I want to, but I _____ . I _____ stay in and finish this essay for school tomorrow.'

10 I haven't read *The Hobbit* since I was a child. I _____ read it some day.