Name: _____ Date: _____

Modal verbs

Grammar worksheet · Ficha de gramática inglesa: los verbos modales (can, could, must, have to, should, might, would)

Remember!

Modal verb	Use	Example
can / can't	ability, permission	I can swim. You can go now.
could / couldn't	past ability, polite requests	I could read at four. Could you help me?
may / might	possibility (may: also formal permission)	It might rain. May I come in?
must / mustn't	obligation / prohibition	You must stop. You mustn't run.
have to / don't have to	obligation / no obligation	I have to go. You don't have to pay.
should / shouldn't	advice	You should rest. You shouldn't shout.
will / would	requests and offers	Will you help me? Would you like some tea?

• Modal + base form, the same for all persons: She can swim (not She cans swim or She can to swim).
• Negative: modal + not (can't, mustn't). Question: modal + subject (Can you...?). Have to is not a modal: Do you have to...?
• mustn't = it is not allowed · don't have to = it is not necessary.

1 Circle the correct option.

Rodean la opción correcta: la forma del modal o el modal que encaja con el sentido.

1. They (can't / don't can) come to the party.
2. Are you hungry? (Would / Do) you like a sandwich?
3. She (have to / has to) look after her little brother on Fridays.
4. I'm not sure where Ana is. She (can / might) be in the library.
5. (Could / Should) you pass me the salt, please?
6. Students (must / mustn't) use their phones during the exam.

2 Complete with a modal verb from the box. The word in brackets tells you the use.

Completan cada frase con un modal del recuadro; el paréntesis indica el uso (ability, permission, obligation, prohibition, no obligation, advice, possibility u offer).

can **must** **mustn't** **have to** **might** **would**

1. Take a coat. It _____ (possibility) be cold tonight.
2. Come in and sit down. What _____ (offer) you like to drink?
3. Students _____ (permission) leave early on Fridays.
4. Cats _____ (ability) jump very high.
5. You _____ (prohibition) feed the animals at the zoo.
6. How many languages _____ (ability) you speak?

3 Match each sentence with its use.

Unen cada frase con el uso del modal: ability, permission, obligation, prohibition, no obligation, advice, possibility, request u offer.

1. My grandfather could read when he was four.	●	●	a) obligation
2. You shouldn't go to bed so late.	●	●	b) advice
3. It might rain this afternoon.	●	●	c) possibility
4. Cyclists must wear a helmet in the race.	●	●	d) permission
5. You mustn't talk during the exam.	●	●	e) ability
6. You may leave when you finish the test.	●	●	f) prohibition

4 Correct the mistakes.

Cada frase tiene un error típico con los modales. La escriben bien en la línea.

1. You don't have to touch the oven. It is very hot!

   → _____

2. I musted leave early yesterday.

   → _____

3. She don't have to get up early.

   → _____

4. You haven't to pay. It is free.

   → _____

5. You should wearing a coat.

   → _____

6. Should I to call you later?

   → _____

5 Write the rules of your classroom and give some advice.

Escriben normas de clase y consejos con must, mustn't, don't have to y should.

In our classroom, we must _____

We mustn't _____

We don't have to _____

A good classmate should _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Modal verbs · Answer key

Soluciones · Grammar worksheet · Ficha de gramática inglesa: los verbos modales (can, could, must, have to, should, might, would)

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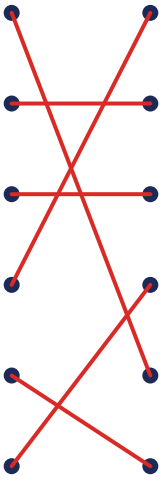
can **must** **mustn't** **have to** **might** **would**

1. Take a coat. It might (possibility) be cold tonight.
2. Come in and sit down. What would (offer) you like to drink?
3. Students can (permission) leave early on Fridays.
4. Cats can (ability) jump very high.
5. You mustn't (prohibition) feed the animals at the zoo.
6. How many languages can (ability) you speak?

3 Match each sentence with its use.

Unen cada frase con el uso del modal: ability, permission, obligation, prohibition, no obligation, advice, possibility, request u offer.

1. My grandfather could read when he was four. — e) ability
2. You shouldn't go to bed so late. — b) advice
3. It might rain this afternoon. — c) possibility
4. Cyclists must wear a helmet in the race. — a) obligation
5. You mustn't talk during the exam. — f) prohibition
6. You may leave when you finish the test. — d) permission



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1. You don't have to touch the oven. It is very hot!
   → You mustn't touch the oven. It is very hot!
2. I musted leave early yesterday.
   → I had to leave early yesterday.
3. She don't have to get up early.
   → She doesn't have to get up early.
4. You haven't to pay. It is free.
   → You don't have to pay. It is free.
5. You should wearing a coat.
   → You should wear a coat.
6. Should I to call you later?
   → Should I call you later?

5 Write the rules of your classroom and give some advice.

Escriben normas de clase y consejos con must, mustn't, don't have to y should.

Respuesta libre. Ejemplo: In our classroom, we must listen when someone is speaking. We mustn't eat in class. We don't have to stand up to answer. A good classmate should help others.