

Modals of Ability Exercise

Put in 'can' / 'can't' / 'could' / 'couldn't'. If none is possible, use 'be able to' in the correct tense:

1. _____ you swim when you were 10?
2. We _____ get to the meeting on time yesterday because the train was delayed by one hour.
3. He _____ arrive at the party on time, even after missing the train, so he was very pleased.
4. He's amazing, he _____ speak 5 languages including Chinese.
5. I _____ drive a car until I was 34, then I moved to the countryside so I had to learn.
6. I looked everywhere for my glasses but I _____ find them anywhere.
7. I searched for your house for ages, luckily I _____ find it in the end.
8. She's 7 years old but she _____ read yet – her parents are getting her extra lessons.
9. I read the book three times but I _____ understand it.
10. James _____ speak Japanese when he lived in Japan, but he's forgotten most of it now.
11. I _____ understand the chapter we had to read for homework. It was so difficult.
12. I _____ lift this box – it's too heavy! Would you help me?
13. Lucy _____ make it to our meeting after all. She's stuck in traffic at the moment.
14. John _____ play tennis really well. He's champion of his club.
15. Unfortunately, I really _____ sing at all! No-one in my family is musical either.
16. When the car broke down I was really pleased because I _____ solve the problem.
17. Julian _____ play excellent golf when he was only ten.
18. My grandmother _____ use a computer until last month. Since then, she's been taking lessons at the library.
19. I _____ open this window. I think it's stuck!
20. Gill _____ play the piano. She's never studied it.

Modals of Obligation

Put in 'mustn't' or 'don't / doesn't have to':

1. We have a lot of work tomorrow. You _____ be late.
2. You _____ tell anyone what I just told you. It's a secret.
3. The museum is free. You _____ pay to get in.
4. Children _____ tell lies. It's very naughty.
5. John's a millionaire. He _____ go to work.
6. I _____ do my washing, because my mother does it for me.
7. We _____ rush. We've got plenty of time.
8. You _____ smoke inside the school.
9. You can borrow my new dress but you _____ get it dirty.
10. We _____ miss the train, it's the last one tonight.
11. She _____ do this work today, because she can do it tomorrow.
12. I _____ clean the floor today because I cleaned it yesterday.
13. We _____ forget to lock all the doors before we leave.
14. We _____ stay in a hotel in London, we can stay with my brother.
15. I _____ spend too much money today. I've only got a little left.
16. They _____ get up early today, because it's Sunday.
17. I _____ eat too much cake, or I'll get fat!
18. We _____ be late for the exam.
19. You _____ tidy up now. I'll do it later.
20. He _____ cook tonight because he's going to a restaurant.

Modals of Probability 1

Put in ‘**must + infinitive**’ or ‘**must + have + past participle**’:

1. Keiko always does really well on exams. She _____ (study) a lot.
2. That woman drives a very expensive car. She _____ (have) a lot of money.
3. You _____ (practise) a lot before you gave your speech. It was really great.
4. When Lizzie got home yesterday, there were flowers on the table. Her husband _____ (buy) them.
5. Where is my purse? I saw it earlier, so it _____ (be) in this room.
6. Sarah couldn’t find her glasses. She thought she _____ (leave) them at her office.
7. It _____ (be) cold outside. That man in the street is wearing a coat.
8. All my plants _____ (be) dead! I forgot to water them before I left for my holiday.
9. Susie is so late! She _____ (miss) the train.
10. There’s rubbish all over my garden! A fox _____ (be) in the bin.
11. Anna has a huge library in her house. She _____ (love) books.
12. Oh no, I don’t have my keys! I _____ (leave) them in the taxi.
13. When Lucy got home she found the ice cream had melted. It _____ (be) too hot in the car.
14. If you haven’t eaten all day, you _____ (be) hungry.
15. Jimmy and Louisa _____ (be) very tired. They have a new baby.
16. It _____ (rain) a lot in the night. There are puddles everywhere.
17. David _____ (be) happy. His girlfriend just agreed to marry him.
18. What an amazing kitchen you’ve got! You _____ (like) cooking.
19. John _____ (eat) all the biscuits! There are none left.
20. When I got up this morning, the kitchen was spotless. Lily _____ (tidy) it before she went to bed last night.

Modals of Probability 2

Put in 'can't' or 'must':

1. Why is that man looking around like that? He _____ be lost.
2. That woman _____ be a doctor! She looks far too young.
3. John always fails the tests, even though he's clever. He _____ study enough.
4. The food is really good at that restaurant. They _____ have a great chef.
5. Who's that at the door? It _____ be Susie – she'll still be at work now.
6. This _____ be John's house. This house has a red door, and it's number 24, just like he said.
7. Julie _____ have much money, or she would buy a new car. Her old one is falling apart.
8. He _____ be at work now, can he? It's nearly midnight.
9. What a lot of lovely flowers you have! You _____ really like gardening.
10. David _____ drink a lot of coffee. He's finished two packets already this week!
11. This _____ be Jamie's coat. He's very tall, and this is tiny.
12. Her life _____ be easy. She has four children and very little money.
13. Where's Lucy? She _____ be at the library, as she often goes there at this time.
14. This bill _____ be right! £50 for two cups of coffee!
15. Emma's amazingly good at the piano. She _____ practice a lot.
16. The car in front is driving so slowly that I think they _____ be looking for something.
17. You've already eaten enough for three people! You _____ still be hungry!
18. This book _____ belong to the library. It's certainly not mine.
19. It only takes three hours to fly from London to Sydney? That _____ be correct!
20. There _____ be something wrong with the fridge! It's making a very unusual noise.

ANSWERS

Modals of Ability - Answers:

1. **Could** you swim when you were 10?
2. We **couldn't** get to the meeting on time yesterday because the train was delayed by one hour.
3. He **was able to** arrive at the party on time, even after missing the train, so he was very pleased.
4. He's amazing, he **can** speak 5 languages including Chinese.
5. I **couldn't** drive a car until I was 34, then I moved to the countryside so I had to learn.
6. I looked everywhere for my glasses but I **couldn't** find them anywhere.
7. I searched for your house for ages, luckily I **was able to** find it in the end.
8. She's 7 years old but she **can't** read yet – her parents are getting her extra lessons.
9. I read the book three times but I **couldn't** understand it.
10. James **could** speak Japanese when he lived in Japan, but he's forgotten most of it now.
11. I **couldn't** understand the chapter we had to read for homework. It was so difficult.
12. I **can't** lift this box – it's too heavy! Would you help me?
13. Lucy **can't** make it to our meeting after all. She's stuck in traffic at the moment.
14. John **can** play tennis really well. He's champion of his club.
15. Unfortunately, I really **can't** sing at all! No-one in my family is musical either.
16. When the car broke down I was really pleased because I **was able to** solve the problem.
17. Julian **could** play excellent golf when he was only ten.
18. My grandmother **couldn't** use a computer until last month. Since then, she's been taking lessons at the library.
19. I **can't** open this window. I think it's stuck!
20. Gill **can't** play the piano. She's never studied it.

Modals of Obligation - Answers:

1. We have a lot of work tomorrow. You **mustn't** be late.
2. You **mustn't** tell anyone what I just told you. It's a secret.
3. The museum is free. You **don't have to** pay to get in.
4. Children **mustn't** tell lies. It's very naughty.
5. John's a millionaire. He **doesn't have to** go to work.
6. I **don't have to** do my washing, because my mother does it for me.
7. We **don't have to** rush. We've got plenty of time.
8. You **mustn't** smoke inside the school.
9. You can borrow my new dress but you **mustn't** get it dirty.

10. We **mustn't** miss the train, it's the last one tonight.
11. She **doesn't have to** do this work today, because she can do it tomorrow.
12. I **don't have to** clean the floor today because I cleaned it yesterday.
13. We **mustn't** forget to lock all the doors before we leave.
14. We **don't have to** stay in a hotel in London, we can stay with my brother.
15. I **mustn't** spend too much money today. I've only got a little left.
16. They **don't have to** get up early today, because it's Sunday.
17. I **mustn't** eat too much cake, or I'll get fat!
18. We **mustn't** be late for the exam.
19. You **don't have to** tidy up now. I'll do it later.
20. He **doesn't have to** cook tonight because he's going to a restaurant.

Modals of Probability 1 - Answers:

1. Keiko always does really well on exams. She **must study** a lot.
2. That woman drives a very expensive car. She **must have** a lot of money.
3. You **must have practiced** a lot before you gave your speech. It was really great.
4. When Lizzie got home yesterday, there were flowers on the table. Her husband **must have bought** them.
5. Where is my purse? I saw it earlier, so it **must be** in this room.
6. Sarah couldn't find her glasses. She thought she **must have left** them at her office.
7. It **must be** cold outside. That man in the street is wearing a coat.
8. All my plants **must be** dead! I forgot to water them before I left for my holiday.
9. Susie is so late! She **must have missed** the train.
10. There's rubbish all over my garden! A fox **must have been** in the bin.
11. Anna has a huge library in her house. She **must love** books.
12. Oh no, I don't have my keys! I **must have left** them in the taxi.
13. When Lucy got home she found the ice cream had melted. It **must have been** too hot in the car.
14. If you haven't eaten all day, you **must be** hungry.
15. Jimmy and Louisa **must be** very tired. They have a new baby.
16. It **must have rained** a lot in the night. There are puddles everywhere.
17. David **must be** happy. His girlfriend just agreed to marry him.
18. What an amazing kitchen you've got! You **must like** cooking.
19. John **must have eaten** all the biscuits! There are none left.
20. When I got up this morning, the kitchen was spotless. Lily **must have tidied** it before she went to bed last night.

Modals of Probability 2 - Answers:

1. *Why is that man looking around like that? He **must** be lost.*
2. *That woman **can't** be a doctor! She looks far too young.*
3. *John always fails the tests, even though he's clever. He **can't** study enough.*
4. *The food is really good at that restaurant. They **must** have a great chef.*
5. *Who's that at the door? It **can't** be Susie – she'll still be at work now.*
6. *This **must** be John's house. This house has a red door, and it's number 24, just like he said.*
7. *Julie **can't** have much money, or she would buy a new car. Her old one is falling apart.*
8. *He **can't** be at work now, can he? It's nearly midnight.*
9. *What a lot of lovely flowers you have! You **must** really like gardening.*
10. *David **must** drink a lot of coffee. He's finished two packets already this week!*
11. *This **can't** be Jamie's coat. He's very tall, and this is tiny.*
12. *Her life **can't** be easy. She has four children and very little money.*
13. *Where's Lucy? She **must** be at the library, as she often goes there at this time.*
14. *This bill **can't** be right! £50 for two cups of coffee!*
15. *Emma's amazingly good at the piano. She **must** practice a lot.*
16. *The car in front is driving so slowly that I think they **must** be looking for something.*
17. *You've already eaten enough for three people! You **can't** still be hungry!*
18. *This book **must** belong to the library. It's certainly not mine.*
19. *It only takes three hours to fly from London to Sydney? That **can't** be correct!*
20. *There **must** be something wrong with the fridge! It's making a very unusual noise.*