ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modal Verbs II Test A2 – B1 Grammar Exercises

A2 B1 Level Grammar Tests · 18 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. Arda has a doctor's appointment at half-past 8 this morning, so he _____ come to the office at 9.
✔ **B) might not**
Arda has an appointment, so he probably won't arrive at 9. We use **might not** for something that is possible but not certain. Not **didn't have to**: it is past, but the sentence is about this morning (**has**).

2. Henry: _____ I have a cold drink, please?

Mrs Cavill: Yes, of course.
✔ **A) May**
We use **May I ...?** to ask for permission politely. **Can't** and **Mustn't** don't make polite requests, and we don't ask for things with **Will I ...?**

3. A: _____ I use the printer, please?

B: Sure.
✔ **A) Can**
We use **Can I ...?** to ask for permission in everyday English: **Can I use the printer?** The answer **Sure** shows it is a request.

4. The exam was so difficult that the students _____ answer most of the questions.
✔ **D) couldn't**
Couldn't is the past of **can't**. The exam was very difficult, so the students were not able to answer most questions.

5. I _____ go to the party this evening because I feel really tired.
✔ **C) may not**
May not + verb means it is possible that I won't do something: **I may not go**. Not **maybe**: it is an adverb, not a modal verb, so it can't come before **go** here.

6. To lose weight, Demir _____ go on a diet, and he _____ eat sweets and junk food.
✔ **B) should / shouldn't**
We use **should** to give advice and **shouldn't** to advise against something. Going on a diet is good advice; eating sweets is not.

7. That blue boat _____ be my uncle Steven's. His boat is yellow and grey.
✔ **A) can't**
We use **can't be** when we are sure something is not true. His boat is yellow and grey, so the blue boat **can't be** his. Not **might not**: that shows we are not sure.

8. You _____ talk to your friends or use a mobile phone while you are doing the exam because it is forbidden.
✔ **D) mustn't**
Mustn't means it is not allowed. The clue is **it is forbidden**. Not **don't have to**: that means it is not necessary, but you can do it if you want.

9. A: _____ we go and pick some apples from the tree?

B: Sure! I'd love to.
✔ **C) Shall**
We use **Shall we ...?** to make a suggestion: **Shall we go?** The answer **I'd love to** shows it is a suggestion.

10. Mary's leg has been hurting since yesterday. I think she _____ see a doctor without delay.
✔ **D) ought to**
Ought to means the same as **should**: we use it to give advice. Mary's leg hurts, so the best advice is to see a doctor.

11. Olga has been sleeping for three hours. I think we _____ wake her up, or she _____ sleep at night.
✔ **D) should / won't be able to**
Should gives advice, and **won't be able to** is the future of **can't**. If she sleeps now, she **won't be able to** sleep tonight. Not **couldn't**: it is past, but **at night** is in the future.

12. They _____ hurry! The post office closes in 10 minutes and they _____ post the letter today.
✔ **C) must / have to**
Must and **have to** show something is necessary. The post office closes soon and the letter needs to go today, so they **must** hurry.

13. You _____ bring any food or drinks with you because the organisers provide them for the participants.
✔ **B) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary. The organisers give food and drinks, so you don't need to bring them. Not **couldn't**: that means you were not able to.

14. During a fire, you _____ panic and run, and you _____ walk quickly towards the fire exit.
✔ **C) shouldn't / should**
We use **shouldn't** for bad ideas and **should** for good advice. In a fire, panicking is a bad idea, and walking quickly to the exit is the right thing to do.

15. A: _____ watch the final game while you were busy serving the guests?

B: No, I wasn't, but maybe I _____ watch it when it is shown on TV again next Friday.
✔ A) Were you able to / will be able to
Were you able to asks about ability in the past (**while you were busy**), and the answer **No, I wasn't** matches it. **Will be able to** is for the future: **next Friday**.

16. **Ken suggested _____.**
✔ D) taking Jasper to the animal shelter
The letter says **My wife says I should take him to the animal shelter, but I don't want to do that.** So it was his wife's idea, not Ken's. Ken himself suggests shouting at Jasper, making him live outside, and that he may be doing something wrong.

17. **It is clearly stated in the passage that Jasper _____.**
✔ C) chews and tears the furniture at night
Paragraph 1 says **now during the night, he rips the furniture to pieces**. Two years ago he didn't do it, and the letter doesn't say shouting works.

18. **Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage?**
✔ D) The reason why Jasper chews and tears the furniture.
Ken doesn't know why Jasper does it; that is why he asks for help. The other things are in the letter: his wife is annoyed, Mr Rayson is a dog trainer, and Jasper **used to be such a good dog**.

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