ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Modals (Elementary / Pre-Intermediate) Test 1

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| 1 | **C** | 2 | **A** | 3 | **C** | 4 | **B** | 5 | **C** | 6 | **A** | 7 | **B** | 8 | **B** | 9 | **A** | 10 | **B** |
| 11 | **A** | 12 | **C** | 13 | **A** | 14 | **C** | 15 | **B** | 16 | **D** | 17 | **B** | 18 | **B** | 19 | **C** | 20 | **A** |

## Explanations

**1.** _____ you speak Spanish?
✔ **C) Can**
We use **can** to ask about ability: **Can you speak Spanish?** = Do you know how to speak it?

**2.** A: _____ I go?

B: Yes, you can.
✔ **A) Could**
We use **could** (or **can**) to ask for permission: **Could I go?** The answer **Yes, you can** shows it is a permission question.

**3.** _____ you help me with my homework?
✔ **C) Can**
We use **can** to ask someone to do something for us: **Can you help me?** We use **May** only with **I** or **we**, not with **you**.

**4.** You _____ enter without a tie.
✔ **B) can't**
**Can't** means it is not allowed: **You can't enter** = you are not allowed to go in. Not **ought not**, because it needs **to**: **ought not to**.

**5.** Cigarettes _____ seriously damage your health.
✔ **C) can**
We use **can** to say that something is possible: smoking **can** damage your health.

**6.** _____ you post this letter for me?
✔ **A) Will**
We use **Will you...?** to ask someone to do something for us: **Will you post this letter for me?**

**7.** _____ I open the window?
✔ **B) Shall**
We use **Shall I...?** to offer to do something for someone: **Shall I open the window? Am I open the window?** is not correct English.

**8.** We _____ leave now or we'll be late.
✔ **B) must**
**Must** shows that something is necessary: we **must** leave now, or we will be late. Not **has to**, because with **we** it is **have to**.

**9.** If you had a video recorder, you _____ record it yourself tonight.
✔ **A) could**
After **If you had** (an imagined situation), we use **could** to talk about possibility: **you could record it**. Not **can**, because the situation is not real.

**10.** Please _____ make a noise.
✔ **B) don't**
We use **don't** + verb to tell someone not to do something: **Please don't make a noise.**

**11.** _____ open the windows. I'm cold.
✔ **A) Don't**
We use **Don't** + verb to tell someone not to do something: **Don't open the windows. Mustn't** needs a subject, e.g. **You mustn't**.

**12.** Shoes _____ be either black or brown.
✔ **C) may**
**May** shows what is allowed: shoes **may** be black or brown (other colours are not allowed). Not **need**, because we say **need to be**.

**13.** A: My car has been stolen.

B: _____.
✔ **A) You should ring the police.**
We use **should** to give advice: **You should ring the police.**

**14.** A: I bought this pen today and it doesn't work.

B: _____.
✔ **C) You should take it back.**
We use **should** to give advice: **You should take it back** to the shop. Not **mustn't**, because that says it is not allowed, which makes no sense here.

**15.** He _____ read faster a few years ago.
✔ **B) could**
**Could** is the past of **can**. **A few years ago** tells us it is about past ability.

**16.** _____ you pass the salt, please?
✔ **D) Could**
We use **Could you...?** to ask politely for something: **Could you pass the salt, please?**

**17.** _____ you remember which shoe you put on first this morning?
✔ **B) Can**
We use **can** with **remember** to ask about ability: **Can you remember...?**

**18.** You _____ be hungry. You've just had dinner.
✔ **B) can't**
We use **can't** when we are sure something is not true: you've just had dinner, so you **can't** be hungry. Not **must**, which means we are sure it IS true.

**19.** You _____ be hungry. You had no lunch.
✓ **C) must**
We use **must** when we are sure something is true: you had no lunch, so you **must** be hungry. Not **can't**, which means we are sure it is NOT true.

**20.** Sorry, this _____ be my bag. Mine is brown.
✓ **A) can't**
We use **can't** when we are sure something is not true: my bag is brown, so this **can't** be my bag. Not **must**, which means we are sure it IS true.

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