ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 1

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/modals-intermediate-upper-intermediate-test-8/

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

Explanations

1. His illness got worse and worse. In the end he _____ go into hospital for an operation.
✓ **C) had to**
The story is in the past (**got worse**), so we need the past form of **must**/**have to**: **had to**. **Must** has no past form. Not **ought to have**, because that means he should have gone but didn't.

2. You _____ any more aspirins; you've had four already.
✓ **A) mustn't take**
Mustn't + base verb means it is not allowed or is dangerous: **You mustn't take any more aspirins.** After **had better (not)** we use the base verb without **to**, so **had better not to take** is wrong. **Needn't have taken** and **shouldn't have taken** talk about the past, but this warning is about now.

3. I've searched everywhere for Bob but I _____ to find him.
✓ **C) haven't been able**
I've searched is present perfect and links the past to now, so the second part also uses the present perfect: **haven't been able to**. Not **couldn't**, because it is followed by **to** here and is past simple, which doesn't match **I've searched**.

4. A: The window is broken and there's a football on the kitchen floor.

B: It _____ broken by the children next door.
✓ **D) must have been**
We use **must have been** + past participle for a strong deduction about the past in the passive: **It must have been broken by the children.** The football is the clue. Not **ought to have been**, because that means something was expected or right, not a logical conclusion.

5. You _____ punished her. She didn't deserve it.
✓ **A) shouldn't have**
Shouldn't have + past participle criticises a past action: it happened, but it was wrong. The clue is **She didn't deserve it**. Not **needn't have**, which only means the action was unnecessary, not wrong.

6. A: I wonder who took my alarm clock.

B: It _____ Julia. She _____ supposed to get up early.
✓ **D) must have been / was**
The clock was taken in the past, so we use **must have been** for a past deduction. **Was supposed to** means she had to get up early, which is the reason for our conclusion. **Might be / is** and **could be / is** are present, so they don't fit a past event.

7. In a hundred years' time we _____ out of water to drink.
✓ **D) may have run**
We use **may have** + past participle (future perfect meaning) for something that will possibly be completed by a future time: **In a hundred years' time we may have run out of water.** Not **must have run**, which is a deduction about the past. Not **might have been run**, because it is passive and makes no sense here. Not **had run**, which is past perfect and cannot describe the future.

8. If you'd explained your problem to me, I _____ to help you.
✓ **C) would have been able**
This is a third conditional: **If** + past perfect (**you'd explained**), then **would have** + past participle. So **would have been able to**. Not **could have**, because **could have to help** is not correct English; **could have helped** would be needed.

9. Joe ran all the way. It wasn't necessary. Joe _____ run all the way.
✓ **A) needn't have**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something, but it wasn't necessary. Joe ran, but **it wasn't necessary**, so: **Joe needn't have run.** **Mustn't have** is not used for past necessity, and **doesn't need to** is present.

10. Tom was serious when he said he wanted to be an actor when he grew up. We _____ at him. We hurt his feelings.
✓ **A) shouldn't have laughed**
Shouldn't have + past participle says a past action was a mistake. We laughed and **hurt his feelings**, so: **We shouldn't have laughed at him.** Not **needn't have laughed**, which only means it wasn't necessary.

11. He _____ hungry. He isn't eating his food.
✓ **D) must be**
Must be makes a strong deduction about the present. The clue **He isn't eating** is present, and we feel sure. Not **should be**, which is about what is expected or right, not a conclusion from evidence.

12. All the lights in Terry's room are turned off. He _____ sleeping.
✓ **C) must be**
The lights **are** off now, so we make a present deduction: **He must be sleeping** (**must be** + -ing). Not **must have been sleeping**, because that is about the past, and the evidence is about now.

13. Let’s go to the seminar. It _____ interesting.
✓ **B) is supposed to be**
Be supposed to be means 'people say' or 'it is expected to be': **It is supposed to be interesting.** That is a good reason to say **Let's go**. Not **used to be**, which is about the past and doesn't explain why we should go now.

14. Children _____ taught to respect their elders.
✓ **A) should be**
We need a modal + passive: **should be** + past participle (**taught**). It gives advice about what is right. **Has to be** doesn't agree with the plural **Children**, and **had better** and **must have** can't be followed by **taught** here.

15. This application _____ last week.
✓ **C) ought to have been sent**
For a past duty that wasn't done, we use **ought to have been** + past participle in the passive: **This application ought to have been sent last week.** Not **should have sent**, which is active, but the application can't send itself.

16. We can’t wait any longer! Something _____ immediately.
✓ **D) must be done**
Must be done is a present modal passive that shows strong necessity now. The clue is **We can't wait any longer** and **immediately**. Not **had to be done**, which is past.

17. A: I overslept this morning.

B: You _____ your alarm clock.
✓ **C) should have set**
Should have + past participle criticises something that didn't happen in the past: **You should have set your alarm clock.** Not **had better set**, which is advice for now or the future, but the oversleeping has already happened.

18. Rice _____ have water in order to grow.
✓ **A) must**
Must expresses something that is absolutely necessary: rice cannot grow without water. **Should** and **ought to** are only advice, and **had better** is a warning about a specific situation.

19. I _____ to go now. I have a class in ten minutes.
✓ **B) have got**
The gap is followed by **to**, so only **have got to** (= **have to**) fits: **I have got to go now. Had better**, **must** and **should** are all followed by the base verb without **to**.

20. “Doctors are supposed to help sick people” means: _____.
✓ **B) They should help sick people.**
Be supposed to means what someone is expected to do, like **should**: **Doctors are supposed to help sick people = They should help sick people.** Not **They help sick people**, which is a simple fact and doesn't show expectation.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com