ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/modals-test-2/

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

Explanations

1. If you _____ fix a radio, you _____ repair a TV too.
✔ **A) can / will be able to**
Can describes an ability you have now. In the main clause about the future we use **will be able to**, because **can** has no future form. Not **must / may**: the sentence is about ability, not duty or possibility.

2. - I've examined you very carefully. I think all you _____ is a good rest.

- But I'm still feeling sick. Why don't you look at my tongue?

- It _____ a rest too.
✔ **E) need / needs**
All you need is... is a fixed pattern meaning 'the only thing necessary is'. In the second gap the subject is **it** (the tongue), so the verb takes -s: **It needs a rest too**. That is the joke: the doctor wants the patient to stop talking.

3. You _____ do this work yourself, if you try.
✔ **A) can**
Can expresses ability, and **if you try** shows you are able to do it yourself. Not **must**: the sentence is about being able, not about an obligation.

4. Guests of the hotel _____ warn the clerk in advance when they leave.
✔ **C) must**
Must expresses a rule or obligation, here a hotel rule for all guests. Not **is to**: the subject **guests** is plural, so it would need **are to**. Not **had to**: the rule is in the present.

5. My mother _____ neither read nor write after the operation and now I _____ help her.
✔ **B) could / have to**
Neither... nor is already negative, so we use positive **could** for past ability: **could neither read nor write**. **Now** shows a present obligation, so we use **have to**. Not **couldn't / had to**: that gives a double negative and puts the obligation in the past.

6. _____ I borrow your textbook? I've left mine at home.
✔ **E) may**
We use **May I...?** to ask politely for permission. Not **must** or **have to**: they talk about obligation, not asking for permission.

7. People _____ exercise regularly, otherwise they will get out of shape.
✔ **B) should**
Should gives advice: it is a good idea to exercise. Not **has to**: the subject **people** is plural, so it would need **have to**. Not **must not**: that would mean exercise is forbidden.

8. "Ma," said a little girl, "Willie wants the biggest piece of cake, and I think I _____ have it, because he was eating cakes two years before I was born."
✔ **D) should**
Should expresses what the girl thinks is right or fair: **I think I should have it**. Not **had to**: she is talking about now, not the past.

9. - I live near my work.

- So you _____ go to the office on crowded buses.
✔ **C) don't have to**
Don't have to means it is not necessary. The speaker lives near work, so there is no need to take buses. Not **can't**: nothing stops the speaker from taking a bus; it is just not necessary.

10. - I _____ go to the cinema yesterday.

- Why?

- Because I _____ complete my work.
✔ **B) couldn't / had to**
Yesterday shows the past. **Couldn't** is the past of **can't** (not able), and **had to** is the past of **must** / **have to** (obligation). Not **can't / must**: these are present forms.

11. The skier broke his leg and _____ compete in the recent Olympic Games.
✔ **A) couldn't**
Couldn't means he was not able to compete in the past, because of his broken leg. Not **mustn't**: that means something is forbidden, not impossible.

12. I _____ not translate this text yesterday. _____ you help me to translate it tonight?
✔ **A) could / can**
Yesterday needs the past form: **could not** (was not able). For a request about tonight we use **Can you help me...?** Not **can / can**: **can** is wrong with **yesterday**.

13. Does Larry _____ leave home at 7.30?
✔ **A) have to**
In questions with **does**, the main verb has no -s: **Does Larry have to...?** Not **has to**: **does** already shows the third person. **Must** and **should** are not used after **does**.

14. - _____ any of you speak Italian?

- No, but we are learning it and I hope we _____ speak it next year.
✔ **C) Can / shall be able to**
Can asks about present ability: **Can any of you speak Italian? Next year** needs a future form, and **can** has none, so we use **shall/will be able to**. Not **could / could**: **could** does not refer to next year here.

15. - _____ I take your pen for a moment?

- Certainly.

✔ **B) May**

We use **May I…?** to ask politely for permission, and **Certainly** is a typical answer. Not **Must**: it asks about obligation, not permission.

16. I _____ speak English last year but I _____ do it now.

✔ **D) couldn't / can**

Couldn't is past inability (last year), and **can** is present ability (now). **But** shows a contrast, so one verb must be negative. Not **could / can**: there is no contrast.

17. Mother, _____ I go for a walk? I've done all my work.

✔ **C) may**

The child asks for permission, so we use **may**: **May I go for a walk?** Not **must**: that asks if going is an obligation.

18. I was ill and _____ go to school for some days.

✔ **D) couldn't**

Was ill shows the past, so we use **couldn't** (was not able). Not **can't**: it is a present form.

19. - _____ we do this work now?

- _____. You can do it tomorrow.

✔ **B) Must / No, you needn't**

Must we…? asks if something is necessary. The negative answer is **No, you needn't** (it is not necessary), and **You can do it tomorrow** confirms this. Not **No, you mustn't**: that would mean it is forbidden.

20. "_____ I do anything for you?" the secretary asked the stranger.

✔ **A) Can**

Can I…? is used to offer help: **Can I do anything for you?** Not **Must**: it would ask about obligation, not offer help.

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