

Modal verbs

Englisch · Klasse 7/8 · mittel

Name: _____ Datum: _____

1 What does the modal verb express? Write: ability, permission, obligation, prohibition or advice.

can = ability or permission. must = obligation (you have to). mustn't = prohibition (not allowed). should = advice. needn't = not necessary.

- a) You must wear a helmet.
- b) She can speak three languages.
- c) You mustn't smoke here.
- d) You should see a doctor.
- e) Can I go to the toilet, please?
- f) You needn't bring food.

2 Fill in must, mustn't, needn't, should or can.

Think: Is it necessary, forbidden, not necessary, a good idea, or possible?

- a) You ... be quiet in the library.
- b) You ... pay — it's free.
- c) You ... cross the road when the light is red.
- d) I ... swim very well.
- e) You look tired. You ... go to bed early.

3 Rewrite the sentence for the past or the future. Use the substitute form.

can -> could / be able to. must -> had to / will have to. Modal verbs have no -s, no to and no past forms except could.

- a) I can swim. (last year)
- b) You must finish the project. (tomorrow)
- c) She can't come. (yesterday)
- d) We must leave early. (yesterday)

4 Write the school rules. Four sentences with different modal verbs.

You mustn't ... / You must ... / You should ... / You can ...

- a) phones, homework, running in the corridor, helping others
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