Modal verbs

Englisch · Klasse 7/8 · mittel · Lösungen

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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. *obligation*

b) She can speak three languages. *ability*

c) You mustn't smoke here. *prohibition*

d) You should see a doctor. *advice*

e) Can I go to the toilet, please? *permission*

f) You needn't bring food. *not necessary*

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 ___*must*___ be quiet in the library.

b) You ___*needn't*___ pay — it's free.

c) You ___*mustn't*___ cross the road when the light is red.

d) I ___*can*___ swim very well.

e) You look tired. You ___*should*___ 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) *I could swim last year. (I was able to swim.)*

b) You must finish the project. (tomorrow) *You will have to finish the project tomorrow.*

c) She can't come. (yesterday) *She couldn't come yesterday. (She wasn't able to come.)*

d) We must leave early. (yesterday) *We had to 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
e.g. You mustn't use your phone in class. You must do your homework. You shouldn't run in the corridor. You can help others.