

Modal Verb Exercises I

Fill in the blanks in each sentence using a modal verb, such as *can, could, would, should, might, may, must, or have to*, based on the situational hints shown in italics. Select the modal that seems most appropriate for the situation described, and be prepared to explain your choice.

1. I not know what to say to him if he showed up.
(I'm unprepared to speak to him.)
2. She look at things differently once the facts are in.
(A change in opinion is possible after all the information becomes available.)
3. It's company policy; you do it this way or your expenses won't be reimbursed.
(The company requires that this procedure be followed for expense reimbursements.)
4. I'm in terrible shape! I exercise more!
(I've decided that more exercise is an absolute necessity for me.)
5. you get this report done for us by tomorrow morning?
(Are you willing and able to prepare this report by tomorrow if we ask you?)
6. you handle this much work on a regular basis?
(Do you have the capacity to handle this much work regularly?)
7. We were worried about you. You have called us as soon as you knew you'd be late.
(Calling someone when you will be late is a good idea, in my opinion.)
8. You want to think a little more carefully about that before trying it next time.
(I think you were stupid not to think more carefully about it.)
9. This computer's not working. It have been damaged by the thunderstorm.
(The damage is a logical deduction based on the information available.)
10. Ellen be sent to London this summer, if the board decides that the situation there warrants it.
(The trip is certainly possible, but whether or not she goes depends on the board's preference.)
11. My trainer says I'm in terrible shape. According to him I exercise more.
(My trainer is trying to compel me to exercise more.)
12. You always try reinstalling Windows, that might work if the disk is corrupt.
(This is one possible course of action, and there's a possibility of it working under certain conditions.)
13. I not do that if I were you!
(I don't think your behavior is prudent, and my own normal behavior is different.)
14. When she was young, she play tennis every single day, rain or shine.
(She did this habitually when she was young, although she doesn't necessarily do it now.)
15. I suggest this dark blue jacket?
(You're a customer in my upscale store, and I'm trying to be very polite.)
16. I admit, it's a very nice-looking car.
(I have no choice but to admit that the car looks nice.)
17. She admit that it was a very nice-looking car.
(She had no choice but to admit that the car looked nice.)
18. I think not!
(I find that absolutely impossible to believe.)
19. we be required to ditch the aircraft, there are flotation devices under your seats.
(There are live-saving devices under your seats for use if we ditch in water.)
20. You say that.
(That's another correct way of summarizing the situation.)