

Modal Verbs 1

I. In each of the following sentences correct the modal in **bold**. In most cases there is more than one possibility.

1. If you like, I **may** make an appointment for you to see Dr Singh tomorrow.
2. Passengers **don't have to** smoke while the plane is taking off.
3. Don't let Sylvie climb that tree - she **can** fall.
4. You probably **mustn't** keep your keys in that pocket because they **could** easily be stolen.
5. I'm afraid Karen **couldn't** come to the party tomorrow because she's not feeling well.
6. Oh no! It **mustn't** be six o'clock already! I feel like I've had no sleep at all!
7. Be careful! That pot's very heavy. You **should** drop it.
8. I absolutely **ought to** get up at seven o'clock because the train leaves at eight.

II. Complete the gaps in these conversations with an appropriate modal verb. In most cases there is more than one possibility.

1. Is it possible to do colour copies on this printer? - Well you _____, but it takes ages.
2. Do you think it'll snow tonight? - It _____, it's suddenly got very cold.
3. Don't you think you'd better see someone about your toothache? - I know I _____, but I hate going to the dentist.
4. Isn't that your boyfriend over there with Susie? - It _____, he's supposed to be in Paris on business!
5. Do you really need to speak Spanish for the job? - Well, you _____, but it helps.
6. Are the car keys in your jacket pocket? - Well, they _____ be, unless someone's taken them.
7. Come inside now - it's getting dark! - Oh _____ we? We're in the middle of a game.