

Modals

A Choose the correct answer.

1. I was worried. You (may have / should have) called to say you'd be late.
2. He can't manage alone. We (have to / can) help him.
3. Diane did nothing wrong. Jim (shouldn't have / couldn't have) shouted at her.
4. She can't find her glasses. She (must have / could have) left them at home.
5. Take an umbrella because it (may / should) rain this afternoon.
6. It's a holiday tomorrow, so we (mustn't / needn't) get up early.

B Complete the passage with the modals below.

couldn't ■ shouldn't ■ must have ■ can ■ must ■ might ■ needn't ■ ought to ■ should have

Times have changed. Nowadays you ¹..... rush off to a travel agent to book tickets for a journey. You ²..... sit at home and book them over the Internet. However, the experience of one British couple ³..... be a warning to everyone. You ⁴..... assume that if you book on the Net, mistakes won't happen. That's why you ⁵..... always check bookings carefully. If you don't, you ⁶..... find yourselves in the wrong part of the world. That's exactly what happened to Emma Dunn and Raoul Sebastian. They set off from London in a large plane, thinking they were on their way to Sydney, Australia. They ⁷..... understand what was happening when they landed at an airport and were asked to transfer to a much smaller plane. It ⁸..... been quite a shock when they finally discovered they were in Canada. They ⁹..... read their tickets more carefully because they were booked for Sydney, Nova Scotia.

C Rewrite the sentences using a modal. Do not change the original meaning.

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|---|--|
| 1. It's forbidden to walk on the grass. You walk on the grass. | 4. We were expecting you to call us. You called us. |
| 2. It's not possible that these diamonds are real. These diamonds be real. | 5. I'm certain that Dan is at work. Dan be at work. |
| 3. It's not necessary to bring food with you on the trip. You bring food with you. | |

D Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use modals or modal perfects.

1. The grass is very wet. It (rain) last night.
2. I'm too busy to visit you at the moment, however I (visit) later.
3. I remember your phone number, so I (not write) it down.
4. Dan didn't know that the lesson was cancelled. Someone (tell) him.
5. He doesn't remember where he left his keys. They (be) on his desk.

E Correct the error in each of the sentences.

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|--|---|
| 1. There are no tickets left. We might have come earlier. | 4. You look so tired. I think you can go to bed early. |
| 2. It's impossible! It mustn't be ten o'clock already. | 5. The traffic light is red. You needn't cross now. |
| 3. That book looks interesting. Am I able to see it? | 6. She failed every exam. She shouldn't have studied. |

Modals – Answers

- A**
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. should have | 4. must have |
| 2. have to | 5. may |
| 3. shouldn't have | 6. needn't |

- B**
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. needn't | 6. might |
| 2. can | 7. couldn't |
| 3. ought to | 8. must have |
| 4. shouldn't | 9. should have |
| 5. must | |

- C**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. mustn't | 4. should have |
| 2. can't | 5. must |
| 3. don't have to / needn't | |

- D**
- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. must have rained | 4. should have told |
| 2. can visit | 5. must be |
| 3. don't have to write / needn't write | |

- E**
1. There are no tickets left. We should have come earlier.
 2. It's impossible! It can't be 10 o'clock already.
 3. That book looks interesting. May / Can / Could I see it?
 4. You look so tired. I think you should / ought to go to bed early.
 5. The traffic light is red. You mustn't cross now.
 6. She failed every exam. She should have / couldn't have studied.