Name: Date: Score: / 8

Modal Helpers: Learn and Practice

Use can, may, must, might and should

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Modal Auxiliaries

- Modals are helping verbs like can, could, may, might, must, should, will and would.
- They change the meaning of a verb to show ability, permission, advice, rules or possibility.
- You must stop at a red light.

1 Which modal shows that something is required? You ___ stop at a red light.

A. may B. could C. might D. must

2 Which modal gives advice? You ___ drink water after running.

A. may B. would C. should D. might

3 Which modal shows ability? Ravi ___ swim across the pool.

A. can B. would C. must D. should

4 Which word is a modal auxiliary? You should wear a helmet.

A. helmet B. should C. you D. wear

5 Which modal shows something is possible but not certain? It ___ rain later.

A. will B. must C. did D. might

6 Which modal asks for permission politely? ___ I borrow your pencil?

A. May B. Will C. Should D. Must

7 What does could show in this sentence? When I was five, I could ride a bike.

A. permission right now B. a strict rule

C. ability in the past D. a future promise

8 Which sentence uses a modal to show a strong rule?

A. Students might sign in at the office.

B. Students may sign in at the office.

C. Students could sign in at the office.

D. Students must sign in at the office.

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for modal helpers and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Modal Helpers: Learn and Practice (answers)

Use can, may, must, might and should

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1. Which modal shows that something is required? You ___ stop at a red light.

   A. may B. could C. might **D. must**

   Must shows a rule you have to follow. Stopping at a red light is required!

2. Which modal gives advice? You ___ drink water after running.

   A. may B. would **C. should** D. might

   Should gives helpful advice. It is a good idea to drink water!

3. Which modal shows ability? Ravi ___ swim across the pool.

   A. can B. would C. must D. should

   Can tells us Ravi is able to swim. It shows ability.

4. Which word is a modal auxiliary? You should wear a helmet.

   A. helmet **B. should** C. you D. wear

   Should helps the verb wear and gives advice. That makes it a modal.

5. Which modal shows something is possible but not certain? It ___ rain later.

   A. will B. must C. did **D. might**

   Might shows a possibility. It may rain, or it may not.

6. Which modal asks for permission politely? ___ I borrow your pencil?

   A. May B. Will C. Should D. Must

   May is a polite way to ask for permission.

7. What does could show in this sentence? When I was five, I could ride a bike.

   A. permission right now B. a strict rule

   C. ability in the past D. a future promise

   Could is the past form of can here. It shows what you were able to do at five.

8. Which sentence uses a modal to show a strong rule?

   A. Students might sign in at the office.

   B. Students may sign in at the office.

   C. Students could sign in at the office.

   D. Students must sign in at the office.

   Must makes it a rule. The others make signing in sound like a choice.