Practice with Modals

Modals are helping verbs that affect the feeling of the main verb. They show how possible, definite, or necessary some action is (or was, or will be, in some cases.) They never change form, and the verb that follows them is always in the base form. If you aren’t sure about how to use them, read Modal Verbs at www.EnglishHints.com before trying these practice exercises.

Practice Part 1 (The modals are done for you in this first exercise.)

Complete the following sentences with these verbs:
(More than one answer may be correct. You will need some verbs more than once.)

be become buy get go help
like pass promise study take talk

1. I would like to _________ a nurse. Do you think I could?

2. You should _________ to a counselor about going to college.

3. Can I _________ biology and math at the local community college?

4. Of course you can. However, you must apply before you can _______ there.

5. Couldn’t I ________ a nurse by just working at a hospital?

6. Not here. You need to (6a) ________ nursing classes first, and then you must (6B) ________ a state test.

7. Then you can _______ your nursing license.

8. What are your most important goals for the next five years?

I would like to (8A) ________ a car, move into a nicer house, and (8B) ________ my children with their schoolwork. (8C) I also will study to ________ a citizen.

9. If you want to become a citizen, you must meet specific requirements. You should ________ American history and government. You might have to wait a while.

10. Then you must ________ a citizenship test.

11. If you can ________ the test and you have fulfilled the other requirements, you can attend a citizenship ceremony.
12. Then will I _________ a citizen?

13. At the citizenship ceremony you must all __________ (take an oath) to be loyal to the U.S.

14. Then you will _________ a citizen!

Modals Practice Part 2

Now choose the right modal verb from this list to fill in each blank. Use each one once.

can, might, must, should, would

1. You ________ see a doctor if you have a severe cough or sore throat for more than a couple of weeks.

2. Do you think it will rain today? The weather report says it won’t rain until tomorrow, but those clouds are very dark. I think it ________ start raining this afternoon.

3. If you want a job in the police, you ________ pass a security check.

4. __________ you like to go to a restaurant or to eat at home?

5. I ________ make chicken pasta or tuna salad, if you like either of those.

Modals Practice Part 3

Choose from can, can’t, could, will, won’t to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1A. _______ you type? I wish I (1B)__________, but I (1C) ________. I have to write everything by hand.

2. When ________ you finish your school project?

3. If you don't work on it now, you probably ________ be able to go to the zoo with us Saturday.
## Modals Practice Answers

### Part 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>be</th>
<th>become</th>
<th>buy</th>
<th>get</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>like</td>
<td>pass</td>
<td>promise</td>
<td>study</td>
<td>take</td>
<td>talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. I would like to **become** (or be) a nurse. Do you think I could?

2. You should **talk** to a counselor about going to college.

3. Can I **study** (or take) biology and math at the local community college?

4. Of course you can. However, you must apply before you can **go** (or study) there.

5. Couldn’t I **become** a nurse by just working at a hospital?

6. Not here. You need to (6a) **take** nursing classes first, and then you must (6B) **pass** (take is also possible) a state test.

7. Then you can **get** your nursing license.

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8. What are your most important goals for the next five years?

I would like to (8A) **buy** (or **get**) a car, move into a nicer house, and (8B) **help** my children with their schoolwork. (8C) I also will study to **become** a citizen.

9. If you want to become a citizen, you must meet specific requirements. You should **study** American history and government. You might have to wait a while.

10. Then you must **pass** (or take-- but in fact you must **pass it**) a citizenship test.

11. If you can **pass** the test and you have fulfilled the other requirements, you can attend a citizenship ceremony.

12. Then will I **be** (or **become**) a citizen?

13. At the citizenship ceremony you must all **promise** (take an oath) to be loyal to the U.S.

14. *Then* you will **be** a citizen!
Modals Practice Part 2

Now choose the right modal verb from this list to fill in each blank. Use each once.

   can, might, must, should, would

1. You **should** see a doctor if you have a severe cough or sore throat for more than a couple of weeks.

2. Do you think it will rain today? The weather report says it won’t rain until tomorrow, but those clouds are very dark. I think it **might** start raining this afternoon.

3. If you want a job in the police, you **must** pass a security check.

4. **Would** you like to go to a restaurant or to eat at home?

5. I **can** make chicken pasta or tuna salad, if you like either of those. (You could also use ‘could’ here.)

Modals Part 3

Choose from can, can’t, could, will, won’t to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1A. Can you type? I wish I (1B) **could**, but I (1C) **can’t**. I have to write everything by hand.

2. When **will** you finish your school project?

3. If you don’t work on it now, you probably **won’t** be able to go to the zoo with us Saturday.