

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.
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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

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

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.

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