Modal verbs exercises with answers: can, must, should

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Choose the right option

Anna can _____ three languages.

a) to speak b) speaks c) speak

2. Fill in the gaps

My phone didn't work yesterday, so I _____ _____ you.

Words: can't / couldn't / called / to call / call

3. Choose the right option

Could you _____ the door, please?

a) open b) opens c) to open

4. Choose the right option

It's cold today. You _____ wear a hat.

a) should b) should to c) shoulds

5. Fill in the gaps

At the pool you _____ have a shower first, and you _____ run.

Words: must / don't must / mustn't / must to

6. Choose the right option

_____ a cup of coffee, please.

a) I will b) I'd like c) I like

7. Choose the right option

_____ touch the plate. It's very hot!

a) Not b) Don't c) No

8. Fill in the gaps

_____ you _____ a cake? Yes, I can.

Words: Can / to make / Are / make / Do / makes

9. Put the words in order

Say you were not able to open the window yesterday

to / the / yesterday / can't / I / open / window / couldn't

Not all words are needed.

10. Choose the right option

Can I _____ your pen, please?

a) using b) to use c) use

11. Fill in the gaps

It's very late. You _____ watch TV now. You _____ go to bed.

Words: shouldn't / should / don't should / should to

12. Put the words in order

Tell your friends about the quiet rule in the library

is / be / quiet / the / to / We / must / in / library

Not all words are needed.

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13. Choose the right option

I'd like _____ to the cinema tonight.

a) go b) to go c) going

14. Fill in the gaps

The baby is sleeping. Please _____ quiet and _____ open the door.

Words: are / is / don't / be / no

15. Put the words in order

Say that your dad is a bad swimmer

not / to / can't / My / swim / swims / very / dad / well

Not all words are needed.

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16. Choose the right option

When I was six, I _____ ride a bike.

a) can b) could c) could to

17. Fill in the gaps

_____ you _____ that again, please? I didn't hear you.

Words: to say / say / Could / said / Are

18. Put the words in order

You and your friends are going by train. Warn the group not to be late

shouldn't / to / for / late / don't / the / be / train / We

Not all words are needed.

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19. Choose the right option

You must _____ your ticket to the driver.

a) shows b) to show c) show

20. Fill in the gaps

_____ you like some cake? No, _____. I'm not hungry.

Words: thanks / please / Do / Are / Would

21. Put the words in order

Tell a child not to sit on the table

sits / the / Not / table / Don't / on / sit

Not all words are needed.

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22. Choose the right option

_____ your sister swim? No, she can't.

a) Does b) Can c) Is

23. Choose the right option

My grandmother could _____ beautiful dresses.

a) made b) makes c) make

24. Choose the right option

I can't open this box. _____ help me, please?

a) Could you b) Did you c) Could I

Answers

Modal verbs exercises with answers: can, must, should

1. **speak**
   After *can* we use the infinitive: *speak*, not *speaks* or *to speak*.

2. **couldn't ... call**
   Yesterday shows the past, so we use *couldn't*, not *can't*. Then the infinitive *call*, not *called*.

3. **open**
   After *could you*, we use the infinitive: *open*, not *to open* or *opens*.

4. **should**
   Should is the same for every subject, with no *-s*. The infinitive *wear* comes right after it.

5. **must ... mustn't**
   A shower is necessary, so use *must* without *to*. Running is not allowed: *mustn't*, not *don't must*.

6. **I'd like**
   To ask politely for something, we use *I'd like*. *I like* is about what you enjoy.

7. **Don't**
   To tell someone not to do something, start with *Don't*, not *Not* or *No*.

8. **Can ... make**
   The short answer has *can*, so the question starts with *Can*, not *Do*. After *can*, use the infinitive *make*.

9. **I couldn't open the window yesterday.**
   Yesterday shows the past, so we use *couldn't*, not *can't*. Then the infinitive *open*, without *to*.

10. **use**
    With *Can I* we also use the infinitive: *use*, not *to use*.

11. **shouldn't ... should**
    It's late, so watching TV is a bad idea: *shouldn't*, without *don't*. Going to bed is a good idea: *should*, without *to*.

12. **We must be quiet in the library.**
    After *must* we use the infinitive *be*, not *is*. We don't put *to* after *must*.

13. **to go**
    Before a verb after *I'd like*, we put *to*: *to go*, not *go* or *going*.

14. **be ... don't**
    A request starts with the infinitive *be*, not *are*. To tell someone not to open it, we use *don't*.

15. **My dad can't swim very well.**
    We talk about ability with *can*, so we say *can't swim very well*. After *can't*, *swim* has no *-s* and no *to*.

16. could

When I was six shows the past, so we use *could*, not *can*. The infinitive comes right after *could*.

17. Could ... say

This is a request, so we use *Could you*. *Could* is not past here, so we use *say*, not *said*.

18. We shouldn't be late for the train.

Being late is bad, so use *shouldn't* and the infinitive *be*. We don't need *don't* or *to*.

19. show

After *must* we use the infinitive: *show*, not *to show* or *shows*.

20. Would ... thanks

This is an offer, so we use *Would you like*. We say no politely: *No, thanks*.

21. Don't sit on the table.

For a negative request, use *Don't* and the infinitive *sit*, not *sits*. Don't start with *Not*.

22. Can

The short answer has *can't*, so the question has *can* too. *Can* comes before the subject, without *does* or *is*.

23. make

After *could* we use the infinitive. *Could* already shows the past, so not *made*.

24. Could you

The other person helps, so we use *Could you*. We use *Could I* to ask for something for ourselves.