

EXPRESSING ADVICE, ASSUMPTIONS, PERMISSION, POSSIBILITY AND ABILITY WITH MODALS

EXPRESSING ADVICE

SHOULD HAVE/COULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the sentences with **SHOULD HAVE-SHOULDN'T**

HAVE/COULD HAVE-COULDN'T HAVE+ PAST

PARTICIPLE

1. You had already eaten. You _____
hungry. (to be)

2. Monica _____ at the shoe
shop this morning. I didn't see her there. (to be)

3. I _____ Paul knew about
Bob's death. (to think)

4. John _____ the race if he
had tried. (to win)

5. I _____ Tom this morning, but I
forgot. (to phone)

6. You _____ him that he is lazy.
He is really angry with you now. (to tell)

7. I _____ to the airport to pick up Aaron, but my car didn't work. (to go)
8. Our dog was ill. We _____ it on its own. (to leave)
9. The letter I sent you _____ by now. (to arrive)
10. Don't worry if Jenny is late. She _____ the train. (to miss)
11. I don't know who rang, but it _____ David. (to be)
12. "I didn't sleep last night." "It was your own fault, you _____ to bed so late!" (to go)
13. You were lucky! You _____ killed! (to be)

14. What Jamie told you was supposed to be a secret. You

_____ her! (to tell)

15. I _____ that car, but I decided

to look at a cheaper one. (to buy)

EXPRESSING ASSUMPTIONS

EXERCISE 1.

Rephrase the following sentences using the modal verbs suggested.

Eg. I'm sure that Mary has been to the sea side. Look how tanned she is!

Mary must have been to the sea side. Look how tanned she is!

1. John is bound to phone if he's not coming. He would never keep us waiting in vain. /BE SURE/

John _____

2. I'm positive that my husband hasn't cheated on me. /CANT/

My husband

3. Jane is never late. I'm sure that something happened on her way here. /MUST/

Jane is never late.

Something

4. It's six o'clock. Lucy is sure to have come back from work. I'll phone her and see. /WILL/

It's six o'clock.

Lucy

5. James looks a bit tired. Perhaps he stayed up late last night.

/MIGHT/

James looks a bit tired.

He_____

EXERCISE 2.

Complete the sentences using

MUST/CAN'T/MUSTN'T*/WILL/MAY

1. Laura _____ have a difficult situation at home.

When she comes to school she's often sad or upset.

2. "The doorbell has just rung, mum. Who can it be?"

"It _____ be the postman. He always comes at this time in the morning."

3. Faith _____ have gone to work today.

She was really ill last night. She couldn't even stand up.

4. "Why did Anna fail her exam? She was very well prepared!"

"I have no idea. They _____ have asked something that she didn't know, or she _____ have forgotten everything just before entering the room."

5. I have told you several times, kids! You _____ touch the oven while mummy is cooking. It's very, very hot and you will burn your little fingers.

EXPRESSING PERMISSION

MUSTN'T/DON'T HAVE TO/CAN'T/SHOULDN'T

EXERCISE 1.

Choose *mustn't*, *don't have to*, *can't*, or *shouldn't* to put in the gaps.

1. Sara _____ take an English course because she was born in Wales.
2. This homework assignment is optional so you _____ do it.

3. You _____ mix chemicals such as ammonia and chlorine when cleaning. If you do, the fumes can kill you.
4. Tom _____ leave his bicycle on the street without locking it; someone might steal it.
5. Karen _____ get her driver's license yet because she's only 15.
6. Nick really _____ drive after having had so much wine to drink.
7. I _____ believe it! The Italian government has reimbursed me for nine hundred thousand lire!
8. Don't worry, you _____ wash the dishes. You cooked, so I will do it.
9. We _____ forget to call Dad on Fathers' Day.
10. You _____ believe everything you see on TV.

EXERCISE 2.

Choose the best word/phrase to complete the sentence.

1. You *don't have to/mustn't* tell anyone what I've just told you: it's a secret.
2. They *shouldn't/can't* go swimming during a thunderstorm; it could be dangerous.
3. You *don't have to/mustn't* buy any milk, as I bought some this morning.
4. I'd love to eat some of that chocolate, but I'm on a diet so I *shouldn't/don't have to*.
5. Joanna *shouldn't/can't* spend the weekend at her friend's house because her father wouldn't allow it.

6. Of course it would be convenient to park here, but this space is for handicapped people, which we are not, so we *can't/mustn't*.
7. We'd like to invite Ben out for dinner tonight, but his phone has no answering machine installed so we *can't/mustn't*.

EXPRESSIONS WITH CAN'T

EXERCISE.

Complete the dialogues choosing the proper expression among the following:

Can't bear	+ ing form / + I infinitive / object
Can't stand	+ ing form / object
Can't help	+ ing form

Example:

"Do you like Milan?"

"No, I can't stand living in Milan, there aren't enough parks."

1. “What has happened to her?”

“She has been sad since he went abroad. She knows he doesn’t love her anymore but she _____ (to think) of him.”

2. “You must like your job! You even go to work on Sundays.”

“We _____ (to work) on Sunday, but since the mall is open, our shop has to be open too.”

3. “Why is Father Locksley so angry with Matt?”

“Last Sunday during mass Father Locksley said ‘dog’ instead of ‘god’ and Matt _____ (to laugh) about it.”

4. “Do you go on holiday with them?”

“No, we don’t. You know, we love camping in the middle of nature but they _____ (to camp), because they have to share a bathroom with other people.”

5. “I’ve told you a hundred times. Why don’t you listen to me?”

Don’t do that.” “Stop it! I _____ people _____ (to shout) at me!”

6. “I used to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day, now I _____ the smell of cigarettes.”

“Well, I _____ people _____ (to smoke) in front of me!”

7. “Did he really leave his wife on the highway?”

“Yes he did. He told the judge that he drove away because he _____ (to wait). The judge said he

understood as he was married but according to the law he had to fine him \$500.

8. “You look like you’re in love.”

“I am. He makes me feel so special. Every morning he tells me that he _____ (to look) at me, because I’m so beautiful!”

EXPRESSING ABILITY

CAN / BE ABLE TO

EXERCISE 1.

This is Jenny's diary about her holiday in the mountains. Form complete sentences using **COULD/COULDN'T** and **WAS/WERE ABLE TO**.

E.g. Sunday >>> climbed the mountain. Had a picnic there.

We were able to climb the mountain. We were able to have a picnic there.

1. Monday >>> it was too cold to sleep. Heard the noise of animals.

2. Tuesday >>> went white water rafting. Saw beautiful views.

3. Wednesday >>> took photographs of the landscape.

4. Thursday >>> discovered a beautiful river. Fished for our food.

5. Friday >>> weather was so awful that we didn't walk.

6. Saturday >>> picked up mushrooms. Went back home.

EXERCISE 2.

Complete the sentences using **CAN/BE ABLE TO**.

e.g. Can you help me with this exercise?

1. It hasn't been a busy day. Teachers.....to correct all the homework.
2. I'm taking an exam tomorrow. I hope I.....to pass.
3. If you give me your details, Ito fill in these documents.
4. I.....understand what was going on.
5. If only you told them that you need money, they
might..... to help you.

CAN AND EVEN

EXERCISE 1.

Finish the sentences using your own words using can/ even or can't/ even.

Example:

She is a terrible cook; she can't even boil an egg.

My pay rise was so good; I can even buy a new car.

1. I do everything on my laptop,

it _____

2. He has broken both his arms,

3. Technology is everywhere,

4. He is very intelligent but has no common sense,

5. She isn't married, she

EXERCISE 2.

Transform the sentences using the structure above.

Example:

He is so nervous he fails all of his exams.

He can't even pass an exam he is so nervous.

1. Their child is extremely intelligent. He does equations in his head.

2. We always go on holiday with the dog. We book hotels that cater for them.

3. Her fear of spiders is so bad she faints at the sight of them.

4. He is such a good salesman, they say he sells ice to Eskimos.

5. Please come to my party. You can bring a friend.

SPECULATIVE PHRASES

EXERCISE 1.

Fill in the following sentences according to the degree of uncertainty expressed using *may/might/could*, then transform the sentences using a different form.

Example:

They look exhausted. They might have been dancing all night.

They look exhausted. They could have been up all night.

1. She _____ go out this evening but she's not sure yet.
-

2. I have lost my umbrella! Don't worry, you _____
have left it at work.

3. The weather is getting worse. It _____ rain this
weekend.

4. She speaks excellent French. She _____ have
been to Paris.

5. He _____ have caught the train at 08.30.

6. Will you leave tomorrow? I _____, but I still have to plan my holiday.

7. What's his name? It _____ be Smith, but I can't remember.

8. Don't touch that! It _____ be dangerous.

9. I am waiting for an answer. Don't worry, he _____ reply by the weekend.

10. Jane is not at home, she _____ be out with her husband.

PERMISSION/POSSIBILITY/ABILITY

EXERCISE 1.

Decide how 'can' and 'could' are being used in the following sentences. Are they being used for 'permission' 'possibility' or 'ability' Write the use next to each sentence.

1. I can ski. I learnt when I was a child.
2. Can you tell me the time please? No, I'm sorry I can't. I don't have a watch.
3. What time could we meet this afternoon?
4. When I was a child, I could stay up until 10.00 pm to watch TV.

5. He could swim really well when he was a child but now he doesn't practise anymore.
6. Can we leave early today please? Yes, of course you can.
7. Please tell me the news! Couldn't you at least tell me who it concerns?
8. I'm the boss, so I can do what I like!
9. Please don't tell me what I can and can't do!
10. He had such a problem to get up for school when he was younger. He could never make it to school on time.

EXERCISE 2.

Complete the following exercise using the correct form of 'can'.

1. I _____ (not phone you for a long time as I've been very busy.
2. _____ you _____ come to the party next Saturday night?
3. Have you heard Fred's level of Italian. He has improved so much. A few months ago he _____ (not) even string two words together.
4. We _____ attend the meeting yesterday, but we _____ (not) _____ attend next week.

5. _____ you phone Debbie for me because I don't have time to do it myself?
6. We _____ visit our friends whenever we want.
7. _____ (not) you just shut up? You're always going on and on about the same old things.
8. I _____ snowboard for one whole year now.
9. _____ she _____ to finish her homework yet?
10. No, she _____ (not) do it yesterday as her mother wanted her to help out with the housework.

MODALS IN THE PAST

EXERCISE 1.

Fill in the blanks with the suitable modal verb, bearing in mind that more than one choice is possible. They could also be in the negative form.

must have / can't have / may have / might have / could have
/ should have

e.g. *I can't find my wallet! I must have left it in the car.*

1. I was in the midst of a lot of people. Jim
_____ noticed me.

2. Jackie woke up late and dashed off to the station. She _____ missed the train.
3. He hasn't replied to my letter yet. He _____ received it.
4. You were drinking and driving on the motorway, going through red lights?! You _____ been killed!
5. The due date was last Friday. I _____ posted the application letter on Thursday.
6. Why did you tell him? It was a secret! You _____ said anything!
7. The dog is barking. It _____ heard something.
8. I jumped from the plane and my parachute didn't open at first. I _____ been injured!

9. She forgot my birthday again. She _____
looked in her diary.

10. What happened to your neighbour's cat? Do you think it
_____ got lost?