



GRAMMAR: MODAL VERBS: answer key worksheet

1) Fill in the gaps with a suitable modal verb and write its function. There might be more than one possibility.

- a) There is a lot of meat in the freezer. You **don't have to/ needn't** buy any. **(Lack of obligation)**
- b) It's a hospital. You **must not/ mustn't** smoke. **(Prohibition)**
- c) He had worked for more than 11 hours. He **must** be tired after such hard work. **(Logical conclusion or certainty)**
- d) I **could (ability in the past)** speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and I forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I **can** just say a few things in the language. **(Ability)**
- e) The teacher said we **can (possibility)** read this book for our own pleasure because it is optional. But we **don't have to/ needn't** read it if we don't want to. **(Lack of obligation)**
- f) If you want to learn to speak English fluently, you **have to** work hard. **(Obligation)**
- g) Take an umbrella. It **may/ might** rain later. **(Possibility, probability)**
- h) You **shouldn't (advice)** leave small objects on the floor. Such objects **may/ might** be swallowed by children. **(Possibility, probability)**
- i) You **must** be careful when you drive. **(Strong obligation)**
- j) **Can/ Could/ May/ Might** I ask a question? Yes, of course. **(Permission)**
- k) You **don't have to/ needn't** take your umbrella. It is not raining. **(Lack of obligation)**
- l) There are a lot of clouds in the sky. It **could/ may/ might** rain in a few minutes! **(Possibility)**
- m) You **should/ ought to** eat healthy if you want to lose some weight. **(Advice)**