



## GOALS

- Learn why mastering modals is important in writing
- Understand three problems writers commonly encounter with modals
- Form and use modals correctly in exercises and writing assignments

Have you ever done any volunteer work in your community or at your school? If so, what kind? If not, what volunteer or community service work would you be interested in doing?



## LEARN WHAT THE ERROR IS

### Errors with Modals

Modals are auxiliaries—such as *may*, *might*, *should*, *must*, *can*, and *could*—that add a specific meaning to a verb. In the sentences below, notice how the modal adds a specific meaning to the verb *exercise*.

#### Examples:

I exercise at the gym regularly. (a fact)

I might exercise at the gym tonight. (a possibility)

I should exercise at the gym more often. (advice to myself)

I could have exercised at the gym yesterday. (a past opportunity that I did not take advantage of)

A modal error is an error that involves the wrong choice of a modal, the wrong form of any part of a modal verb phrase, or the wrong time reference of a modal verb phrase. A modal verb phrase consists of a modal and all the verbs that appear with it, including the main verb.

#### Example:

*modal verb phrase*

I should have exercised at the gym last night.

Errors with modals involve verbs and are thus global (more serious) errors that can affect a reader's ability to understand a text. Writers who are unable to use modals correctly will have limited ability to show the difference between facts, assumptions, and possibilities in English—distinctions frequently made in academic and professional writing. The editing symbol for a modal error is *modal*.

The following examples illustrate how modals can be used to show assumptions and possibilities.

#### Examples:

Someone I know has lived in the dorm for four years. (a fact) Because most students stay in the dorm for only one or two years, the person I know must like the dorm very much. (a logical conclusion based on the information given)

My roommate did not eat much at dinner last night. (a fact) She might be trying to lose weight, or she might not have been very hungry. (logical assumptions marked as possibilities by the modal *might*)

Another important function of modals is that they serve to qualify statements or adjust their degree of certainty. Compare the following

three statements and notice how the underlined modal serves to lessen the degree of certainty of the statement.

**Examples:**

This method will simplify the analysis of the data. (statement of fact)

This method should simplify the analysis of the data. (probability or expectation)

This method may simplify the analysis of the data. (possibility)

Thus, modals have specific and important functions in English, and being able to use them correctly increases a writer's ability to express his or her ideas clearly and precisely.

### Suggestions for Reducing Errors

- Study the meaning and use of the different modals using the chart in this unit. Learn and understand what meaning each modal adds to the verb it accompanies. Learn the time reference of each form also.
- Be aware that some modals, like *must*, *can*, and *could*, have more than one meaning, depending on the context in which they are used. For example, the modal *must* can indicate a requirement as in the sentence *Passengers must fasten their seat belts during takeoff and landing.* Or it can indicate a logical assumption as in the sentence *Pat was not at an important meeting today. She must have forgotten.* You will find all of the different meanings for modals listed in the chart in this unit.
- Pay attention to how modals are used in what you read. As you read books, articles, and other material in English, notice how writers use modals to add meaning to verbs.

**Write answers to these questions. Share your answers with another student.**

1. What are some examples of modals?
2. What makes modals important in academic and professional writing? What meanings can modals add to a sentence?

### Check Your Understanding

## GRAMMAR JOURNAL ENTRY 3 MODALS

*Respond to the following in your grammar journal.*

1. What is something you feel you should have done recently but did not? Why weren't you able to do it?
2. Write two sentences with modals and underline the modal verb phrase. Explain what meaning the modal gives to the verb.



## UNDERSTAND COMMON PROBLEMS

This section presents three problems that writers commonly encounter with modals. First, take the pre-test to see what you already know about modals. When you finish, check your answers on page 350. Then, carefully study each problem and the examples that illustrate it. Pay particular attention to those problems that correspond to the pre-test questions you had difficulty with. Remember that becoming aware of the types of errors you most often make with modals will increase your chances of avoiding these errors in your writing.

### Pre-test

#### What Do You Already Know?

Test your ability to recognize and correct errors with modals.

- A** Correct the marked modal errors. These are examples of the three problems that are presented in this unit.

**Problem 1** I have not seen my next-door neighbor for a week. She can be <sup>modal</sup> out of town.

**Problem 2** In order to be successful, a person must has <sup>modal</sup> the determination to achieve goals.

**Problem 3** I cannot find my favorite pen. I must leave <sup>modal</sup> it at home.

- B** Underline and correct the one error in each of the following items. (The errors are not in any particular order.)

- When we arrived, Lili was not at the station. She must had forgotten that we were coming at 3:00 PM.
- My e-mail did not go through. I should have forgotten to press "send."
- Juan told me he can play the flute at age five.

### Three Common Problems

**Incorrect:** I must have gone <sup>modal</sup> to see my instructor on Monday, but I did not have time.

**Correct:** I should have gone to see my instructor on Monday, but I did not have time.

#### Problem 1

The wrong modal has been chosen to express the writer's intended meaning.

**Problem 2**

The modal verb phrase has been incorrectly formed.

**Note:** *Should have gone* is correct because it shows advisability after the fact. *Must have gone* is incorrect because it shows that an assumption has been made about the past and this is not what the writer wishes to express.

*modal (vf)*

Incorrect: She might studies at the library tonight.

*modal (vf)*

Incorrect: She might to study at the library tonight.

Correct: She might study at the library tonight.

**Note:** Your instructor may mark this kind of modal error *modal (vf)* to indicate that the error is a modal verb-form error.

*modal (vf)*

Incorrect: I could had submitted the proposal, but I wanted to do some additional editing.

Correct: I could have submitted the proposal, but I wanted to do some additional editing.

*modal (vf)*

Incorrect: Marina can be able to return the book tonight.

Correct: Marina can return the book tonight.

Correct: Marina is able to return the book tonight.

**Note:** Do not use the modals *can* or *could* and *be able to* together.

**SELF-HELP STRATEGY:** Remember not to add an -s to a third-person singular verb following a present modal. Instead, use the base form after a modal as in the sentence *John may give (not gives) a short presentation*. Also, carefully check the formation of past modals, making sure you use the modal + have + past participle as shown in the sentence *John may have (not had) given a short presentation*.

**Problem 3**

The time reference of the modal verb phrase is incorrect.

*modal (vt)*

Incorrect: My muscles are sore. I should not exercise so hard yesterday.

Correct: My muscles are sore. I should not have exercised so hard yesterday.

**Note:** Your instructor may mark this kind of modal error *modal (vt)* to indicate that the error is a modal verb-tense error.

## REVIEW GRAMMAR SOLUTIONS

### Formation of Modal Verb Phrases

#### 1. Present time

##### a. modal + base form

###### Examples:

Why does Chris look so pale?

He might be sick. (present)

What does he usually do for exercise?

He might exercise at the gym, but I am not sure. (present habitual)

##### b. modal + *be* + present participle (*-ing* form)

###### Example:

What is he doing right now?

He might be exercising at the gym. (present; happening now)

#### 2. Future time

##### a. modal + base form

###### Example:

What is she going to do tomorrow night?

She might exercise at the gym. (future)

##### b. modal + *be* + present participle (*-ing* form)

###### Example:

She should be studying tomorrow night. (future; happening over a period of time)



See Unit 5 for information on using modals in the passive voice.

### 3. Past time

#### a. modal + *have* + past participle

**Example:**

What did he do last night?

He might have exercised at the gym. (past)

#### b. modal + *have* + *been* + present participle (-ing form)

**Example:**

What was he doing when you called last night?

He might have been exercising at the gym. (past; happening over a period of time)

### 4. *Ought to* and *have to*

The modals *ought to* and *have to* in the present and in the past are formed with ought and have + the infinitive.

**Examples:**

We ought to study before the test. (present)

We have to study before the test. (present)

We ought to have studied more than we did. (past)

We had to study hard before the test. (past)

### 5. Negatives

Modals are generally made negative by putting *not* after the modal and before the verb. One exception is the negative of *have to*.

**Examples:**

The library might not be open right now.

You had better not be late.

We might not have remembered to lock the door.

We do not have to go to the meeting tonight.

## Meaning and Use of Modals

The following Dictionary of Modals shows the different meanings that modals can have. For example, modals can express ability, necessity, and advisability. The meanings are listed alphabetically, with the present and past forms. Note that some modals have more than one meaning.

## DICTIONARY OF MODALS

<b>ABILITY: <i>can, could</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To show that a person or a thing has the ability or capacity to do something</li> <li>• To show potential ability</li> </ul>	
Present	Past
<p><i>can</i> + base form</p> <p>Miranda <u>can play</u> the piano very well. (She has the ability.)</p> <p>I <u>cannot use</u> the new software because my computer does not have enough memory. (I am not able to use the new software.)</p> <p>Exercise <u>can reduce</u> high blood pressure. (It has the potential ability to reduce high blood pressure.)</p>	<p><i>could</i> + base form</p> <p>When he was younger, my father <u>could understand</u> German. (He had the ability to understand German.)</p> <p>I <u>could not use</u> the new software because my computer did not have enough memory. (I was not able to use the software.)</p> <p>Researchers found that lowering salt intake <u>could reduce</u> high blood pressure.</p>
<b>ADVISABILITY: <i>should, ought to, had better</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To show that something is advisable or to give a piece of advice</li> <li>• To make a strong suggestion</li> <li>• To show regret after something happened or was done</li> <li>• To give instructions</li> </ul>	
Present	Past
<p><i>should</i> + base form</p> <p><i>ought to</i> + base form</p> <p><i>had better</i> + base form (<i>stronger</i>)</p> <p>Diana <u>should stop</u> smoking.</p> <p>You <u>should pay</u> your bills on time to avoid late penalties.</p> <p>People <u>should not drink</u> too much coffee.</p> <p>You <u>had better study</u> as the test is going to be difficult.</p> <p>You <u>ought to</u> exercise daily.</p>	<p><i>should have</i> + past participle</p> <p><i>ought to have</i> + past participle</p> <p><i>had better have</i> + past participle</p> <p>Diana <u>should have stopped</u> smoking last year (but she didn't).</p> <p>My sister feels she <u>should not have bought</u> that expensive car because now she is having difficulty paying for it.</p> <p>You <u>had better have turned</u> off the stove when you left the house.</p>



<b>ASSUMPTION: <i>must</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To indicate that something is probable based on information believed to be true</li> <li>• To come to a logical conclusion or inference based on information believed to be true</li> </ul>	
Present	Past
<p><i>must + be</i></p> <p><i>must + be + present participle</i></p> <p>That store <u>must be</u> new because I have never seen it before.</p> <p>Janine is absent today; she <u>must not be feeling</u> well.</p>	<p><i>must have + past participle</i></p> <p>The movie <u>must have finished</u> as people are coming out of the theater. (I am quite sure that I am correct.)</p> <p>My friend did not know about the test today. He <u>must not have attended</u> class the day the test was announced.</p>
<b>CHOICE: See Option</b>	
<b>DESIRE: <i>would like</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To express a desire</li> <li>• To express a desire that was not realized (negative)</li> </ul>	
Present	Past
<p><i>would like + infinitive</i></p> <p>I <u>would like to go</u> to medical school.</p>	<p><i>would have liked + past infinitive (OR infinitive)</i></p> <p>I <u>would have liked to have seen</u> (OR <u>to see</u>) that show but it was sold out.</p>
<b>EXPECTATION: <i>should, ought to</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To show that something is expected to happen or to have happened</li> </ul>	
Present	Past
<p><i>should, ought to + base form</i></p> <p>According to the weather report, it <u>should rain</u> tonight. (It is probable because of the weather conditions.)</p> <p>The flight <u>should arrive</u> soon (OR: <u>ought to arrive</u>). (It is expected to be on schedule.)</p>	<p><i>should have + past participle</i> <i>ought to have + past participle</i></p> <p>The express letter <u>should have reached</u> her by noon on Saturday according to the post office. (OR: <u>ought to have reached</u>) (It is expected that this has happened.)</p>

Continued on page 66.

## DICTIONARY OF MODALS (CONT.)

<b>GENERAL TRUTH: will</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To state a general truth</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	
<p><i>will</i> + base form</p> <p>When water is heated to a high temperature, it <u>will boil</u>.</p> <p>My new car <u>will run</u> on either gas or electricity.</p>	
<b>INFERENCE: See Assumption</b>	
<b>NECESSITY: must, have to</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show that it is absolutely necessary to do something</li> <li>To indicate a requirement or an obligation</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>must</i> is stronger than <i>have to</i></p>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<p><i>must, have to</i> + base form</p> <p>All students <u>must attend</u> the orientation. (This is a requirement.)</p> <p>We <u>must start</u> our final project soon. (It is absolutely necessary.)</p> <p>Members <u>do not have to pay</u> the entrance fee. (It is not necessary.)</p>	<p><i>had to</i> + base form</p> <p>Alexander <u>had to make up</u> the exam yesterday. (This was a requirement and Alexander was obliged to do it.)</p> <p>We <u>did not have to buy</u> trip insurance. (It was not necessary.)</p>
<b>OBLIGATION: See Necessity</b>	
<b>OPPORTUNITY: can, could have</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show an opportunity for something to happen or to be done</li> <li>To show an opportunity that was not taken advantage of</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<p><i>can</i> + base form</p> <p>We <u>can pick up</u> our new puppy tomorrow. (We have the opportunity to do this tomorrow.)</p>	<p><i>could have</i> + past participle</p> <p>The instructor <u>could have given</u> us more time to write the paper. (He had the opportunity to do so, but he didn't.)</p> <p>Erika <u>could have gone</u> home this weekend, but she stayed on campus.</p>
<b>OPTION: can, could</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show an option or indicate a choice</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<p><i>can</i> + base form</p> <p>Students <u>can</u> either <u>register</u> online or in the office.</p>	<p><i>could</i> + base form</p> <p>I <u>could register</u> online when I was at my previous school, but here I cannot.</p>



<b>PERMISSION: <i>can, could, may</i></b>	
• To ask for or give permission	
<b>Present</b>	
<i>can, could, may</i> + base form	
<u>Could</u> I make an appointment?	
<u>May</u> I make an appointment? (more formal)	
You <u>can leave</u> when you have finished your exam.	
You <u>may leave</u> when you have finished your exam. (more formal)	
<b>POLITE QUESTION: <i>could, would</i></b>	
• To ask a polite question	
<b>Present</b>	
<i>could, would</i> + base form	
<u>Could</u> you <u>tell</u> me where the nearest post office is?	
<u>Would</u> you <u>have</u> time to meet with me tomorrow?	
<b>POSSIBILITY: <i>may, might, could</i></b>	
• To express the possibility that something will happen or happened	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<i>may, might, could</i> + base form	<i>may have, might have, could have</i> + past participle
It <u>might rain</u> tomorrow.	George, rather than Ted, <u>may have picked up</u> the parcel from the post office.
The snowstorm <u>could develop</u> into a blizzard if a strong wind comes up.	Arthur <u>could not have been</u> in class today because he had to go to the dentist. (impossibility)
Melissa <u>may come</u> this afternoon after she gets off work.	
<b>PREDICTION: <i>will</i></b>	
• To predict that something will happen or will have happened	
<b>Time: Future</b>	
<i>will</i> + base form	
<i>will have</i> + past participle	
I think our team <u>will win</u> the game.	
We all think that when the results are in, our candidate <u>will have won</u> the election.	

Continued on page 68.

## DICTIONARY OF MODALS (CONT.)


<b>PREFERENCE: <i>would rather</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show a definite preference</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<i>would rather</i> + base form	<i>would rather have</i> + past participle
Sejin <u>would rather play</u> video games than study.	Sejin <u>would rather have played</u> video games than study last night.
<b>PROBABILITY: See Assumption and Expectation</b>	
<b>PROHIBITION: <i>must not</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show prohibition</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	
<i>must not</i> + base form	
You <u>must not smoke</u> in the classroom.	
<b>PROMISE: <i>will, would</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make a promise</li> </ul>	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<i>will</i> + base form	<i>would</i> + base form
The federal government <u>will provide</u> assistance to the flood victims.	The federal government stated yesterday that it <u>would provide</u> assistance to the flood victims.
<b>REPEATED ACTION IN THE PAST: <i>would</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To show an action that took place over a period of time in the past</li> </ul>	
	<b>Past</b>
	<i>would</i> + base form
	When I lived in Los Angeles, I <u>would go</u> to the beach every weekend.
<b>SUGGESTION: <i>should, could, might</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strongly suggest that something should happen or be done, use <i>should</i></li> <li>To make a weak suggestion, use <i>could</i> or <i>might</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Note:</b> A strong suggestion is similar to advice. See Advisability.	
<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>
<i>should, could, might</i> + base form	<i>should have, could have, might have</i> + past participle
Everyone <u>should come</u> to class on time. (This is a strong suggestion that this behavior is preferred.)	We <u>should have bought</u> a faster computer. (This is a strong suggestion after the fact; it indicates that we didn't do it but that it would have been a good idea.)
Brenda <u>could try</u> speaking more loudly. (weak suggestion)	
Jim <u>might consider</u> political science for his major as he does not like math. (weak suggestion)	Helen <u>could have saved</u> herself time by flying instead of driving to St. Louis. (This is a weaker suggestion after the fact.)

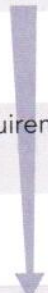


## IMPROVE YOUR WRITING STYLE

### ADJUSTING THE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY OR NECESSITY

Modals are frequently used to adjust the degree of certainty or necessity. These functions are important because they allow the writer to be precise and accurate in making assertions. Note how the degree of certainty or necessity changes in the lists below.

	DEGREE OF CERTAINTY	MODAL	EXAMPLE
	Certain	Assertion of fact	(none) Aspirin <u>reduces</u> pain.
		Prediction showing certainty	will Aspirin <u>will reduce</u> the pain.
		Assertion showing capability	can Aspirin <u>can reduce</u> pain.
	Probable	Prediction showing probability	should Aspirin <u>should reduce</u> the pain.
	Possible	Prediction showing possibility	may Aspirin <u>may reduce</u> the pain.
		Prediction showing possibility	might Aspirin <u>might reduce</u> the pain.
		Prediction showing possibility	could Aspirin <u>could reduce</u> the pain.

	DEGREE OF NECESSITY	MODAL	EXAMPLE
	Fact	Assertion of fact	(none) Students <u>use</u> the library.
		Requirement or obligation	must Students <u>must use</u> the library for this project.
	Requirement	Strong recommendation/ advice	should Students <u>should use</u> the library as much as possible.
		Opportunity or option	can Students <u>can use</u> the library if they wish.
	Suggestion	Suggestion	could Students <u>could use</u> the library for their meeting.

## PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

### EXERCISE 1

**Directions:** Change the following sentences from present to past time. For some of the sentences, you will need to change time words and phrases.

**Example:** I do not see Monica at the reception, but she might arrive later.

Past: *I did not see Monica at the reception, but she might have arrived later.*

1. Bob might be joking about his decision to quit school.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Lian could be finished by 3:00 PM this afternoon.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Max, who is on the track team, can run a mile in 4 minutes, 30 seconds.

Past: When he was on the track team, Max \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jill must be full after eating at that restaurant.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Because Lydia needs to get a good grade on her exam, she must study this evening.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

6. I should exercise regularly to get into shape for the backpacking trip.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

7. You ought to send your roommate's parents a thank-you card when you get home.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_



8. My supervisor must be sick since she did not attend the office party this afternoon.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Mary may not have time to call her parents tonight.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

10. My roommate has to do the shopping this week.

Past: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 2

**Directions:** For each sentence, write down what the meaning or function of the modal is, as well as the time frame of the statement.

**Example:** I really **should** exercise more often. (*advisability; present or future*)

1. In most states, drivers **must** carry proof of car insurance.
2. Analyzing your data in a different way **may** give you better results.
3. You **must** be tired after working at the office for ten straight hours.
4. Tom is looking for someone who **can** translate a document from Japanese to English.
5. The study **could** have a considerable impact on the field of molecular biology.
6. When I was young, I **could** speak French, but I have forgotten most of it.
7. What a beautiful new sports car! It **must have** cost a lot of money.
8. I **should not have** spent so much time on the proposal because now I am behind on other important tasks.
9. Both of these factors **may** be important in explaining the recurrence of the disease.
10. Students **can** request a book either in person or online.

**EXERCISE 3**

Directions: Use a modal to express the underlined part of each of the following ideas.

*I might have missed him.*

Example: I didn't see Bob at the library. It's possible that I missed him.

1. I didn't see Judy at the library after 10:00 PM. She probably left early.
2. The sky is getting cloudy. There is a chance of rain.
3. Elena didn't come to class yesterday. It was necessary for her to go to Chicago.
4. Linda received a gift from her aunt. It is advisable for her to send a thank-you note.
5. We don't have much work today. It is possible that our supervisor will allow us to leave early.
6. My brother-in-law just bought a nice house in an expensive section of town. I assume the house cost a lot of money.
7. Jose was available to help over the weekend. In retrospect, I realize that it would have been a good idea to have asked him to help.
8. When I was young, I knew how to play the piano, but I have forgotten how since I have not played in many years.
9. My roommate had time to wash the dishes last night, but she went out instead.
10. One option that we have is to camp out on our way to the Grand Canyon.



**EXERCISE 4**

**Directions:** Decide whether each of the following sentences is correct (C) or incorrect (I). If it is incorrect, correct the error and note the meaning that the modal gives to the verb.

**Example:** I should not ~~had~~ <sup>have (advisability)</sup> told you about my problem because now you are worried.

- \_\_\_ 1. My brother must had forgotten to call me.
- \_\_\_ 2. My brother could have call me while I was at the library.
- \_\_\_ 3. My brother may calls late tonight.
- \_\_\_ 4. I did not have time to stop at the store because I must have stayed late at the office to finish my work.
- \_\_\_ 5. Susan felt she could have worked out longer in the gym, but her coach advised her not to do so.
- \_\_\_ 6. I got a speeding ticket! I should not have be driving over the speed limit on the freeway.
- \_\_\_ 7. My roommate is in Hawaii interviewing for a job. It should be warm there even though it is winter here.
- \_\_\_ 8. Most people now realize that we must take action soon to save endangered species.

**EXERCISE 5**

**Directions:** Underline each modal verb phrase in the following paragraph. Then, below the paragraph, write each modal or modal verb phrase and the meaning. The first two have been done for you.

Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona is a paradise for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Visitors will be awed by the fabulous view of the canyon—its vast depth and beautifully colored walls. The National Park Headquarters and Visitor Center is at the South Rim where visitors can pick up information

about the park. Visitors who have only a little time to spend can view the canyon from either the North Rim or the South Rim. People who have more time may want to see more of the Grand Canyon than just the North or South Rim. Such visitors can drive along parts of the rim or hike down into the canyon on various trails. In fact, hikers can walk or ride a mule all the way to the bottom of the canyon to the Colorado River. However, hikers must be sure to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration, as the weather can be extremely hot and dry. At the bottom, hikers can stay at either Phantom Ranch, which consists of cabins or dormitories, or at an adjacent campground. Perhaps the best way to see the canyon, however, is to float down the Colorado River either on a rubber raft or in a wooden dory. Seeing the canyon from this perspective is spectacular, but people who are afraid of white water should not take this trip since some of the Colorado River rapids are among the largest in the world. For most visitors, a trip to the Grand Canyon should be a truly unforgettable experience.

1. *will be awed: shows future tense* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *can pick up: shows an option* \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_



**EXERCISE 6**

**Directions:** Fill in each blank with the correct modal verb phrase in this student paragraph. The main verb and modal meaning are indicated in parentheses.

Writing a term paper last semester was very challenging for me. At the beginning of the term, I was looking forward to doing the research and writing the paper. But, unfortunately, I waited longer than I should have waited (wait / advisability) to get started. I \_\_\_\_\_ (start / opportunity) earlier, but for some reason I just kept waiting. I found myself working right up until the last minute. I know I \_\_\_\_\_ (proofread / advisability) the paper more carefully. I also \_\_\_\_\_ (add / opportunity) some illustrations if I had had more time. Because I started so late, I not only had to submit a less than satisfactory paper, but I also \_\_\_\_\_ (stay up / necessity) all night to finish it.

**EXERCISE 7**

**Directions:** Choose a short news article to read. Underline every modal verb phrase and identify the meaning the modal verb phrase gives to the sentence.

### Post-test

### What Do You Know Now?

**A** Decide whether the use of the modal is correct (C) or incorrect (I). If it is incorrect, cross out the error and make the correction.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. He believes he can pass his exam even though he has not studied much.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The students standing outside the library looked upset.  
The library door must had been locked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I did very poorly on my chemistry test yesterday. I realize that I must have studied more before taking it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. She must forget our meeting yesterday because she never showed up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Zhang Wei is not in class today. He could oversleep and miss the bus.

**B** Restate these sentences by filling in an appropriate modal or modal verb phrase.

1. Students are required to complete all of their essays to pass the class.  
Students \_\_\_\_\_ complete all of their essays to pass the class.
2. Mike will be able to complete all his classes for graduation next semester.  
Mike \_\_\_\_\_ complete all his classes for graduation next semester.
3. I was supposed to buy a present for my brother's birthday, but I forgot.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ a present for my brother's birthday, but I forgot.
4. My teacher expects that I will pass this class if I do well on the final exam.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ pass this class if I do well on the final exam.
5. I did not do well in school last semester. My parents are demanding that I do better in school this semester.  
My parents informed me that I \_\_\_\_\_ do better in school this semester.
6. When Ana calls, I will tell her that I prefer to see a movie rather than eat out.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ rather go to a movie than eat out.



**C** Correct the marked modal errors in this student paragraph.

I faced many challenges when I first came to college. Among the greatest was the discovery that I must live in a dorm room with a complete stranger. (1) Originally, I had hoped to room with my high school friend, but I must had (2) waited too long to mail in my housing request, and so I was assigned a different roommate. During the first couple of weeks of school, my new roommate would have thought that I was an extremely unfriendly and (3) unkind person since I seldom responded to her with much warmth. I know that I could adjusted to the situation and approach my roommate in a more (4) (5) positive way. Unfortunately, I was so focused on my own concerns that I could not be able to think about things from my roommate's perspective. (6)

**D** Complete the paragraph by using the correct modal with the verb in parentheses.

When my aunt was a student at the University of Arizona, all students \_\_\_\_\_ (fulfill / necessity) a language requirement. She thought (1) that she \_\_\_\_\_ (take / advisability) Russian as that seemed to be (2) an important language at the time because of the Cold War. However, she found out it was very difficult because students \_\_\_\_\_ (learn / (3) necessity) the Cyrillic alphabet. Therefore, she dropped the class. Now she feels that she \_\_\_\_\_ (continue / advisability after the fact) (4) with the Russian class because next summer she \_\_\_\_\_ (take / (5) possibility) a trip to Russia.

## APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED TO WRITING

Select a writing topic and follow the steps in Appendix A on page 337.

### Topic 1:

Describe any volunteer or community service work you have done in your school, your community, or your country. To what extent do you feel it is important for each person to do some volunteer or community service work at some point in his or her life?

### Topic 2:

You have been asked to give some advice to people who would like to visit your country of origin for the first time for a two-week period. What suggestions do you have for them? For example, what do you think they might like to see and do? Should they go to one city or several? What should they take with them? How should they prepare for the trip?

### Topic 3:

Write about a situation that you feel you did not handle as well as you could have. First, describe the situation. Then, explain what you think you could have done differently.

