

## Modal verbs – exercises

### I. Complete the sentences with a suitable modal verb or be able to / be allowed to / have to AND a suitable verb.

e.g. I'm sorry I'm late. I had to make an important phone call.

1. Mum, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema tonight ? No, you \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ you carry all those bags ? You look tired.
3. When my grandfather was young, you \_\_\_\_\_ a car without even taking a test.
4. He used to \_\_\_\_\_ run a marathon but he isn't that fit any more.
5. Fortunately, they \_\_\_\_\_ a little empty cottage just before the storm began.
6. I feel exhausted, I \_\_\_\_\_ so late last night !
7. On my eighth birthday I \_\_\_\_\_ until 9 o'clock !
8. You \_\_\_\_\_ that word, children, it's rude !
9. You're overweight, you \_\_\_\_\_ on a diet.
10. You \_\_\_\_\_. I'm not deaf !
11. They \_\_\_\_\_ so much money because everything was cheap anyway.
12. In some countries couples \_\_\_\_\_ without their parents' permission.
13. A : \_\_\_\_\_ to Peggy ?  
B : I'm sorry but she \_\_\_\_\_ to the phone right now.  
A : \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ a message ?
14. Why didn't you come to the party ?  
I \_\_\_\_\_ for the exam next week.
15. Why do you feel sick ?  
I'm not sure. I \_\_\_\_\_ something bad at the party.
16. Our flight was cancelled so we \_\_\_\_\_ the night in a local hotel.
17. I'm sleepy. I \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes open.
18. You \_\_\_\_\_ me that you were coming. I would have cooked something special.
19. She \_\_\_\_\_ your wallet ! She's an honest person and I trust her.

### II. Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

1. Shall I open the window for you ?  
Me Would you \_\_\_\_\_ the window for you ?
2. I'm sure Jenny has prepared enough food  
Have Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ enough food.
3. Perhaps he didn't cause the accident.  
May He \_\_\_\_\_ the accident.
4. Perhaps he's going away next month.  
Be He \_\_\_\_\_ away next month.
5. She will probably accept our offer.  
Likely She \_\_\_\_\_ our offer.

6. I'm sure he didn't attend the meeting.

Have He \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting.

7. It wasn't necessary for you to give me so much money.

Have You \_\_\_\_\_ so much money.

8. Why don't you try on this dress ?

Ought You \_\_\_\_\_ this dress.

9. It's not necessary for you to come to the meeting

Need You \_\_\_\_\_ to the meeting.

10. You aren't allowed to talk in the library

Not You \_\_\_\_\_ in the library.

11. Why didn't you invite him to the party ?

Have You \_\_\_\_\_ him to the party.

12. May I ask you a personal question ?

If Would you \_\_\_\_\_ you a personal question ?

13. Perhaps he was sleeping when you phoned.

Have He \_\_\_\_\_ when you phoned.

14. It wasn't necessary for him to take an umbrella as it was sunny.

Need He \_\_\_\_\_ an umbrella as it was sunny.

### III. Correct the mistakes.

1. You needn't to worry about meeting me at the station.

2. Do I ought to phone the airport ?

3. Did you able to find the papers you lost ?

4. I hadn't to show my passport to get the rail ticket.

5. You mustn't write anything down unless you want to.

6. I checked the timetable so I can't to be wrong about the departure time !

7. You don't spend as much time as you must on your homework.

8. When you were young, must you wear uniforms at school ?

9. May you tell me where I can catch a bus to the station ?

10. She can not go with us, she's grounded !

11. You mustn't go to the cinema with us if you don't want to.

12. Tomorrow you will can talk to the boss about this problem.

13. I could buy a ticket after queuing for five minutes.

14. You mustn't write anything down unless you want to.

15. You had not better go there alone, it's dangerous.

16. You really have to read this book, it's so exciting !

17. She ought have been nicer to the receptionist, then she would have got the job.

18. Fortunately, I could free my hands and escape.

19. They needn't have taken a taxi, because I drove them to the airport.