

## Activities - modal verbs

### Handout 1

Write the correct option in the column on the right. In some cases, **both** are possible:

You *don't have to* / *mustn't* use your phone in quiet zones.

- 1 Do you think we *should* / *ought to* text Dad to tell him we'll be late?
- 2 You *don't have to* / *mustn't* send text messages when you are driving.
- 3 A pilot *has to* / *must* wear a uniform when he's at work.
- 4 You *should* / *must* go to the Uffizi when you're in Florence.
- 5 I *have to* / *must* speak to my phone company. My last bill was wrong.
- 6 We *don't have to* / *mustn't* hurry. We have plenty of time.
- 7 When I was at school we *had to* / *must* wear a horrible uniform.
- 8 You *shouldn't* / *don't have to* walk on the grass. They've just planted flowers there.

1. both
2. mustn't
3. has to
4. should
5. must
6. don't have to
7. had to
8. shouldn't

## Handout 2

Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

If the line's engaged, you ll have to call back later.  
(have to)

1  do a lot of homework when you were at school? (you / have to)

2  take my tablet out of my bag at Security? (I / must)

3 My sister is a nurse, so some weeks  work nights. (she / have to)

4  ever  have an operation? (you / have to)

5 Saturdays are the best day of the week. I love  get up early. (not have to)

6 I don't think  wear boots inside their house. (we / should)

7 The exhibition was free, so I  pay. (not have to)

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ...

5. ....

6. ....

7. ...

### Handout 3

Write the correct option in the column on the right. In some cases, **both** are possible:

I've always wanted to <i>can</i> / <i>be able to</i> dance salsa.	
1 My little boy <i>couldn't</i> / <i>wasn't</i> able to speak until he was nearly two years old.	1. ....
2 She's much better after her operation. She'll <i>can</i> / <i>be able to</i> walk again soon.	2. ....
3 He hasn't <i>could</i> / <i>been able to</i> mend my bike yet. He'll do it tomorrow.	3. ....
4 It's the weekend at last! I love <i>can</i> / <i>being able to</i> go out with my friends.	4. ....
5 When we lived on the coast, we used to <i>can</i> / <i>be able to</i> go to the beach every day.	5. ....
6 I <i>can't</i> / <i>'m not</i> able to send any emails at the moment. My computer isn't working.	6. ....
7 I <i>could</i> / <i>was</i> able to read before I started school.	7. ...
8 We won't <i>can</i> / <i>be able to</i> go on holiday this year because we need a new car.	8. ....
9 Linda's pleased because she's finally <i>could</i> / <i>been able to</i> find a part-time job.	9. ....
10 Alex <i>can</i> / <i>is able to</i> speak Portuguese fluently after living in Lisbon for ten years.	10.....

## Handout 4

Complete with the correct form of **be able to** (+,-,?)

I've never been able to scuba dive.

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 Her mobile has been switched off all morning, so I <input type="text"/> talk to her yet.               | 1. ....           |
| 2 I don't like noisy bars. I like <input type="text"/> have a conversation without shouting.             | 2. ....           |
| 3 I <input type="text"/> leave home when I get a job.  | 3. ....           |
| 4 We're having a party next Saturday. <input type="text"/> you <input type="text"/> come?                | 4. .... you ..... |
| 5 You need <input type="text"/> swim before you can go in a canoe.                                       | 5. ....           |
| 6 I can speak five languages. I hate <input type="text"/> communicate with people in their own language. | 6. ....           |
| 7 Fortunately, firefighters <input type="text"/> rescue everybody from the burning house.                | 7. ....           |
| 8 I'm very sorry, but we <input type="text"/> come to your wedding next month. We'll be on holiday.      | 8. ....           |
| 9 You're looking worse. <input type="text"/> you <input type="text"/> contact the doctor yet?            | 9. .... you ..... |
| 10 The manager <input type="text"/> see you right now because she's in a meeting.                        | 10. ....          |

## Handout 5

Rewrite the **bold** sentences using *must / might (not) / can't + have + verb*:

**I'm certain I left my umbrella at home.** It's not in the office.

*I must have left my umbrella at home.*

- 1 Holly's crying. **Perhaps she's had an argument with her boyfriend.** *She...*
- 2 **I'm sure Ben has read my email.** I sent it first thing this morning. *Ben...*
- 3 **I'm sure Sam and Ginny haven't got lost.** They have satnav in their car. *Sam and Ginny...*
- 4 **You saw Ellie yesterday? That's impossible.** She was in bed with flu. *You...*
- 5 **Perhaps John didn't see you.** That's why he didn't say hello. *John...*
- 6 **I'm sure Lucy has bought a new car.** I saw her driving a blue VW Golf! *Lucy...*
- 7 **I'm sure Alex wasn't very ill.** He was only off work for one day. *Alex...*
- 8 They didn't come to our wedding. **Maybe they didn't receive the invitation.** *They...*
- 9 This tastes very sweet. **I'm sure you used too much sugar.** *You...*
- 10 **It definitely wasn't my phone** that rang in the cinema. Mine was on silent. *It...*

1. She ....
2. Ben ....
3. Sam and Ginny ....
4. You ....
5. John ....
6. Lucy ....
7. Alex ....
8. They ...
9. You ...
10. It ....

## Handout 6

Respond to the first sentence using *should / shouldn't have* or *ought / oughtn't to have* + a verb in the list:

buy come eat go invite learn sit write take

A We couldn't understand anybody in Paris.

B You *should have learnt* some French before you went.

A Sue is in bed with a stomach ache.

B She *oughtn't to have eaten* so much chocolate cake yesterday.

1 A Tom told me the date of his party, but I've forgotten it.

B You  it down.

1. ....

2 A I was late because there was so much traffic.

B You  by car. The metro is much faster.

2. ....

3 A Amanda was rude to everyone at my party.

B You  her. You know what she's like.

3. ....

4 A I don't have any money left after going shopping yesterday.

B You  so many shoes. Did you really need three pairs?

4. ....

5 A You look really tired.

B I know. I  to bed earlier last night.

5. ....

6 A The chicken's still frozen solid.

B I know. You  it out of the freezer earlier.

6. ....

7 A I think I've burnt my face.

B I'm not surprised. You  in the sun all afternoon without any sunscreen.

7. ....