

Modal Verbs: can, can't, must, mustn't

A1 Beginner

Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

Read each statement. Write **True** or **False**.

1. We use "can" to talk about ability.

Answer: _____

2. "Can" changes to "cans" with he/she/it.

Answer: _____

3. "Mustn't" means it is forbidden — not allowed.

Answer: _____

4. "Must" is used for things you are able to do.

Answer: _____

5. "Can't" is the negative form of "can".

Answer: _____

6. You can say "She cans swim."

Answer: _____

7. "Must" is used for strong rules and obligations.

Answer: _____

8. "Can't" and "mustn't" have the same meaning.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb to complete each sentence. Circle your answer.

1. I ____ ride a bike.

(can / must / mustn't)

2. You ____ eat in the library. It is not allowed.

(can / must / mustn't)

3. She ____ speak Spanish very well.

(can / must / mustn't)

4. Students ____ wear a uniform at this school.

(can / must / mustn't)

5. He ____ play the guitar. He never learned.

(can't / must / mustn't)

6. You ____ be quiet in the hospital.

(can't / must / mustn't)

7. We ____ use our phones during the exam.

(can / mustn't / must)

8. They ____ swim. They are on the swimming team.

(can / must / can't)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to its correct meaning (a–h). Write the letter.

Sentences	Meanings
1. You must show your passport. ____	A. It is a rule — you need to do this.
2. I can drive a car. ____	B. I have this ability.
3. She can't cook. ____	C. She doesn't have this ability.
4. You mustn't take photos here. ____	D. It is forbidden — not allowed.
5. He can sing very well. ____	E. He has this ability.
6. We must arrive before 9am. ____	F. This is an obligation.
7. Children mustn't touch the paintings. ____	G. This is prohibited.
8. I can't swim. ____	H. I don't have this ability.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb from the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. You ____ wear your seatbelt in the car.

(can / must / mustn't)

2. I ____ speak Arabic.

(can't / must / mustn't)

3. She ____ play the violin beautifully.

(can / must / mustn't)

4. You ____ run near the swimming pool.

(can / must / mustn't)

5. He ____ read very well for his age.

(can / can't / must)

6. Passengers ____ keep their bags with them at all times.

(can / must / mustn't)

7. We ____ use phones in the exam room.

(can / must / mustn't)

8. My sister ____ drive. She is only twelve.

(can't / must / mustn't)

Exercise 5 — Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. speak / can / English / I

2. your / must / ticket / You / show

3. a / can't / She / car / drive

4. eat / We / mustn't / here / in

5. swim / He / very / can / fast

6. must / here / You / be / quiet

7. They / play / can't / football

8. use / mustn't / Students / phones

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column of the table below.

Word bank: I can ride a horse. | He can cook Italian food. | They can speak three languages. | She can't ski. | I can't speak Japanese. | She can't drive yet. | You must wash your hands. | Visitors must sign in. | We must wear helmets. | You mustn't park here. | You mustn't feed the animals. | Children mustn't cross alone.

Ability (can)	Inability (can't)	Obligation (must)	Prohibition (mustn't)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb from the brackets to complete the conversation.

A: ____ you swim?

(Can / Must / Mustn't)

B: Yes, I ____ swim, but I ____ dive.

(can / can't / must)

A: We ____ be at the pool by 8am tomorrow.

(can / must / mustn't)

B: OK! And we ____ be late — the coach is very strict.

(can / must / mustn't)

A: ____ you bring extra towels?

(Can / Must / Mustn't)

B: Sure! Oh — you ____ park in front of the entrance. It is not allowed.

(can / must / mustn't)

Modal Verbs: can, can't, must, mustn't — ANSWER KEY

A1 Beginner

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — Do not distribute to students

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. We use "can" to talk about ability.
✓ True
2. "Can" changes to "cans" with he/she/it.
✓ False
3. "Mustn't" means it is forbidden — not allowed.
✓ True
4. "Must" is used for things you are able to do.
✓ False
5. "Can't" is the negative form of "can".
✓ True
6. You can say "She cans swim."
✓ False
7. "Must" is used for strong rules and obligations.
✓ True
8. "Can't" and "mustn't" have the same meaning.
✓ False

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. I ____ ride a bike.
✓ can
2. You ____ eat in the library. It is not allowed.
✓ mustn't
3. She ____ speak Spanish very well.
✓ can
4. Students ____ wear a uniform at this school.
✓ must
5. He ____ play the guitar. He never learned.
✓ can't
6. You ____ be quiet in the hospital.

✓ **must**

7. We ____ use our phones during the exam.

✓ **mustn't**

8. They ____ swim. They are on the swimming team.

✓ **can**

Exercise 3 — Matching

✓ 1 → It is a rule — you need to do this.

✓ 2 → I have this ability.

✓ 3 → She doesn't have this ability.

✓ 4 → It is forbidden — not allowed.

✓ 5 → He has this ability.

✓ 6 → This is an obligation.

✓ 7 → This is prohibited.

✓ 8 → I don't have this ability.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. You ____ wear your seatbelt in the car.

✓ **must**

2. I ____ speak Arabic.

✓ **can't**

3. She ____ play the violin beautifully.

✓ **can**

4. You ____ run near the swimming pool.

✓ **mustn't**

5. He ____ read very well for his age.

✓ **can**

6. Passengers ____ keep their bags with them at all times.

✓ **must**

7. We ____ use phones in the exam room.

✓ **mustn't**

8. My sister ____ drive. She is only twelve.

✓ **can't**

Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ I can speak English
 2. ✓ You must show your ticket
 3. ✓ She can't drive a car
 4. ✓ We mustn't eat in here
 5. ✓ He can swim very fast
 6. ✓ You must be quiet here
 7. ✓ They can't play football
 8. ✓ Students mustn't use phones
-

Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Ability (can):

- ✓ I can ride a horse.
- ✓ He can cook Italian food.
- ✓ They can speak three languages.

Inability (can't):

- ✓ She can't ski.
- ✓ I can't speak Japanese.
- ✓ She can't drive yet.

Obligation (must):

- ✓ You must wash your hands.
- ✓ Visitors must sign in.
- ✓ We must wear helmets.

Prohibition (mustn't):

- ✓ You mustn't park here.
 - ✓ You mustn't feed the animals.
 - ✓ Children mustn't cross alone.
-

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: ____ you swim?

✓ Can

2. B: Yes, I ____ swim, but I ____ dive.

✓ can / can't

3. A: We ____ be at the pool by 8am tomorrow.

✓ must

4. B: OK! And we ____ be late — the coach is very strict.

✓ **mustn't**

5. A: ____ you bring extra towels?

✓ **Can**

6. B: Sure! Oh — you ____ park in front of the entrance. It is not allowed.

✓ **mustn't**