

Modal Verbs: should, have to, could, might — Lesson 4

A2 Elementary ·
Lesson 4

Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

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

1. "Should" is used when something is required by an outside rule.

Answer: _____

2. "Have to" describes an obligation that exists because of an outside situation.

Answer: _____

3. "Could" is only ever used to talk about past events.

Answer: _____

4. "Might" is used to talk about something that is certain to happen.

Answer: _____

5. "You don't have to bring anything" means bringing something is not required.

Answer: _____

6. "She has to" is the correct form to use with he, she, or it.

Answer: _____

7. "Could you help me?" is an impolite way to make a request.

Answer: _____

8. "You shouldn't ignore warning signs" is a piece of advice.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb. Circle your answer.

1. You ____ charge your phone before the battery gets too low.

(should / might / have to)

2. She ____ attend an induction day on her first week.

(has to / might / should)

3. He ____ be stuck in traffic — he's usually on time.

(might / should / have to)

4. Before she retired, she ____ type ninety words per minute.

(could / should / has to)

5. You ____ pay for parking after 6pm — it's free.

(don't have to / should / might)

6. ____ you recommend a good place to eat near here?
(Could / Should / Might)
7. The project ____ run over budget if we're not careful.
(might / have to / could)
8. You ____ review your spending at the end of each month.
(should / might / don't have to)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to the correct meaning (A–H). Write the letter.

Sentences	Meanings
1. You should update your password every few months. ____	A. Some sections are optional — there is no pressure to complete them a
2. He has to collect his prescription before the pharmacy closes. ____	B. There is a chance this will have an impact — but it is not certain.
3. In her twenties, she could run a marathon. ____	C. This is recommended for safety — a good habit to develop.
4. The interview might be moved to next week. ____	D. The speaker is asking for help in a considerate way.
5. You don't have to answer every question in the survey. ____	E. The speaker is advising against a risky practice.
6. Could you proofread this before I submit it? ____	F. She had this physical capacity when she was younger.
7. You shouldn't store passwords in a plain text file. ____	G. The deadline creates an obligation he cannot ignore.
8. The new policy might affect how we work from home. ____	H. There is a possibility of a change — but nothing is confirmed.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb from the brackets.

1. You ____ warm up before you start exercising.
(should / might / have to)
2. She ____ pass a background check before starting the role.
(has to / might / should)
3. The queue ____ be shorter if we go earlier in the morning.
(might / should / have to)
4. As a student, he ____ learn an entire script in a single evening.
(could / should / has to)
5. You ____ stay until the end — you can leave whenever you like.
(don't have to / should / might)
6. ____ you email me the agenda before the meeting?
(Could / Should / Might)
7. Prices ____ rise again next year — it's hard to predict.
(might / have to / could)
8. You ____ check the label before you wash it.

(should / might / don't have to)

Exercise 5 — Word Order (8 points)

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

1. meals / plan / week / should / the / You / for / your

2. safety / complete / She / a / has / health / to / course / and

3. fog / of / might / The / because / flight / delayed / be

4. heating / Could / down / the / you / little / a / turn

5. first / session / pay / for / the / don't / You / have / to

6. age / of / equations / could / nine / He / at / the / complex / solve

7. angry / when / decisions / shouldn't / make / you're / You

8. might / approach / rethink / the / whole / need / We / to

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

Read each sentence carefully. Write it in the correct column.

Word bank: You ___ get travel insurance before you go abroad. | You ___ answer straight away — think it over. | You ___ keep your receipts for tax purposes. | He ___ attend a safety briefing on his first day. | All new employees ___ set up two-factor authentication. | She ___ log her hours in the system every day. | Before the pandemic, I ___ work from the office every day. | ___ you hold on a moment while I check? | When I was younger, I ___ memorise long poems easily. | The conference ___ be moved online this year. | There ___ be a better solution — let's keep thinking. | It ___ be cheaper to fly from a different airport.

Advice	Obligation	Past Ability / Request	Possibility
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct modal verb from the brackets.

A: I'm looking at a flat but I'm not sure about the area. You ___ visit it at different times of day.

(should / might / have to)

B: Good idea. And you ___ want to check the public transport links too.

(might / should / have to)

A: Do I ___ use the agency, or can I contact the landlord directly?

(have to / should / might)

B: You ___ go through the agency — it's just one option.

(don't have to / should / might)

A: ___ you look over the contract with me before I sign?

(Could / Should / Might)

B: Of course. You ___ sign anything until you've read every clause carefully.

(shouldn't / might / have to)

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TEACHER ANSWER KEY — Do not distribute to students

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. "Should" is used when something is required by an outside rule.
✓ False
2. "Have to" describes an obligation that exists because of an outside situation.
✓ True
3. "Could" is only ever used to talk about past events.
✓ False
4. "Might" is used to talk about something that is certain to happen.
✓ False
5. "You don't have to bring anything" means bringing something is not required.
✓ True
6. "She has to" is the correct form to use with he, she, or it.
✓ True
7. "Could you help me?" is an impolite way to make a request.
✓ False
8. "You shouldn't ignore warning signs" is a piece of advice.
✓ True

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. You ___ charge your phone before the battery gets too low.
✓ should
2. She ___ attend an induction day on her first week.
✓ has to
3. He ___ be stuck in traffic — he's usually on time.
✓ might
4. Before she retired, she ___ type ninety words per minute.
✓ could
5. You ___ pay for parking after 6pm — it's free.
✓ don't have to
6. ___ you recommend a good place to eat near here?

✓ **Could**

7. The project ____ run over budget if we're not careful.

✓ **might**

8. You ____ review your spending at the end of each month.

✓ **should**

Exercise 3 — Matching

1. You should update your password every few months.

✓ **C — This is recommended for safety — a good habit to develop.**

2. He has to collect his prescription before the pharmacy closes.

✓ **G — The deadline creates an obligation he cannot ignore.**

3. In her twenties, she could run a marathon.

✓ **F — She had this physical capacity when she was younger.**

4. The interview might be moved to next week.

✓ **H — There is a possibility of a change — but nothing is confirmed.**

5. You don't have to answer every question in the survey.

✓ **A — Some sections are optional — there is no pressure to complete them all.**

6. Could you proofread this before I submit it?

✓ **D — The speaker is asking for help in a considerate way.**

7. You shouldn't store passwords in a plain text file.

✓ **E — The speaker is advising against a risky practice.**

8. The new policy might affect how we work from home.

✓ **B — There is a chance this will have an impact — but it is not certain.**

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. You ____ warm up before you start exercising.

✓ **should**

2. She ____ pass a background check before starting the role.

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3. The queue ____ be shorter if we go earlier in the morning.

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5. You ____ stay until the end — you can leave whenever you like.

✓ don't have to

6. ___ you email me the agenda before the meeting?

✓ Could

7. Prices ___ rise again next year — it's hard to predict.

✓ might

8. You ___ check the label before you wash it.

✓ should

Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ You should plan your meals for the week
2. ✓ She has to complete a health and safety course
3. ✓ The flight might be delayed because of fog
4. ✓ Could you turn the heating down a little
5. ✓ You don't have to pay for the first session
6. ✓ He could solve complex equations at the age of nine
7. ✓ You shouldn't make decisions when you're angry
8. ✓ We might need to rethink the whole approach

Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Advice:

- ✓ You ___ get travel insurance before you go abroad.
- ✓ You ___ answer straight away — think it over.
- ✓ You ___ keep your receipts for tax purposes.

Obligation:

- ✓ He ___ attend a safety briefing on his first day.
- ✓ All new employees ___ set up two-factor authentication.
- ✓ She ___ log her hours in the system every day.

Past Ability / Request:

- ✓ Before the pandemic, I ___ work from the office every day.
- ✓ ___ you hold on a moment while I check?
- ✓ When I was younger, I ___ memorise long poems easily.

Possibility:

- ✓ The conference ___ be moved online this year.
- ✓ There ___ be a better solution — let's keep thinking.

✓ It ____ be cheaper to fly from a different airport.

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: I'm looking at a flat but I'm not sure about the area. You ____ visit it at different times of day.

✓ **should**

2. B: Good idea. And you ____ want to check the public transport links too.

✓ **might**

3. A: Do I ____ use the agency, or can I contact the landlord directly?

✓ **have to**

4. B: You ____ go through the agency — it's just one option.

✓ **don't have to**

5. A: ____ you look over the contract with me before I sign?

✓ **Could**

6. B: Of course. You ____ sign anything until you've read every clause carefully.

✓ **shouldn't**