

MODAL VERBS – homework exercises

I. Complete these sentences using each expression in brackets once.

1. Before Eurostar trains started, you couldn't get to Paris in under three hours. Now you _____ do it in around two. (*can/couldn't*)
2. I _____ easily work 60 hours a week at the moment, but I don't think I'll _____ for ever. (*can/be able to*)
3. In a few years' time you'll _____ pay by cheque anywhere, although you _____ still use them in some countries at the moment. (*can/be unable to*)
4. _____ come to my office as soon as possible? And _____ bringing those figures with you? (*would you mind/could you*)
5. A: _____ I talk to you for a minute?
B: OK, but I _____ only give you a minute. (*may/can*)

II. Underline the most suitable verbs in italics for the contexts.

1. You'd *better* / *must* tidy your desk. We're expecting visitors. [colleague to colleague]
2. All visitors *can* / *must* report to reception upon arrival. [on a notice board]
3. You *can* / *have to* give me at least four weeks' notice of your holiday dates. [manager to staff]
4. You'd *better not* / *don't need to* pay the invoice for 60 days. [salesperson to client]
5. I *must* / *might want to* remember to call Mark about that trip to Russia. [someone thinking]
6. We *need to* / *must* arrange that conference call with the Rome office. [member of staff to manager]

III. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence.

Use the modal verbs in the box.

<i>could</i>	<i>have to</i>	<i>must not</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>needn't</i>
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1. It's not necessary to wear a suit and tie if you work in the IT department.
You _____ wear a suit and tie if you work in the IT department.
2. Company rules say that staff should claim all expenses within one month.
Staff _____ claim all expenses within one month.
3. Are you able to look after the French delegation on Friday evening?
_____ you look after the French delegation on Friday evening?
4. It's important to tell your colleagues if you will be out of the office.
You _____ to tell your colleagues if you will be out of the office.
5. It is forbidden to use the Internet for personal reasons except during lunchtime.
Employees _____ use the Internet for personal reasons except during lunchtime.