

MODAL MEANINGS IN CONTEXT

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Choose modals by function: deduction, possibility, obligation or permission.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: Ben **must be** delayed. He's usually early.

B: He **might have missed** the message. Visitors **have to sign** in before six.

A: **Can I use** your phone? I'll call and remind him.

2. EVIDENCE, RULES AND CHOICES

1. What **must** a visitor do at your workplace or school? Explain the reason.
2. What **might** delay someone on their way to an appointment?
3. What **don't you have to do** on a course or at work, but find helpful?
4. How would you ask whether you **may use** something that belongs to someone else?
5. What behaviour **mustn't** visitors engage in at a place you know?
6. What evidence makes you say someone **must be** tired or busy?

Keep talking: Does that express a rule or a conclusion? / Is it optional or forbidden? / How certain are you?

3. SAME WORD, DIFFERENT JOB

Explain the function of the bold phrase, then give a natural response in that situation.

7. You **must leave** by six; that's the closing time. What does the visitor need to do?
8. "You **must be** exhausted after that journey." How could you respond?
9. "You **don't have to book**." What options does the visitor have?
10. "She **could have called**, but she didn't." Is this a guess or an unused option?

4. HANDLE A LATE ARRIVAL

Plan a visit to a workplace or event. Explain a requirement, an optional action and a prohibition.

A visitor is late. Discuss possible explanations, then ask permission to contact or help them.

Example: She **might be lost**. **May I leave** the desk to look for her?

Briefly explain which modal meanings you used and how the context makes them clear.

Answer help: Must be ... / Might have ... / Have to ... / Don't have to ... / May I ...?

Remember: Mustn't means forbidden; don't have to means optional. Context determines function.