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MODALS have GREEN Fingers, too!

Modal verbs are ingredients that add meaning to our sentences! Whether you're talking about ability, permission, advice, or necessity, modal verbs like *can, could, must, should, will, and might* help us, learners, express ideas clearly.

Remember!

Modal verbs are different from normal verbs:

1. They don't use an 's' for the third person singular in present forms: He **may** water the plants if **he wants** to!

2. They usually do not need DO, WILL and other auxiliaries for questions and negative forms: **Can I** feed the chickens? (But, an exception**: Do I really have to** feed the chickens?)

You **must not/mustn't l**eave **the stable door** open! (Exception: You **don't have to/need to** water the plants if you don't want to).

3. They are usually followed by the short infinitive of another verb (**without 'to'**).

You **should mow the grass in your orchard! (**Exception**: You have to mow the grass** after 8.30 a.m., it's the rule in our community**!).**

4. We use the formula **MODAL + have + past participle** for many past or perfect forms of these verbs.

He may have watered the cucumbers. (Perhaps, he (has) watered the cucumbers.)

(Exception: He **must** weed the garden soon– He **had to** weed the garden. The weeds were all over the place. (past necessity/obligation).

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Short revision of modal meaning, through examples:

To be able to – CAN (I can drive a tractor); COULD (I could drive a tractor when I was 20).

It is possible that – COULD, MAY, MIGHT

(He could be in the greenhouse. He might be watering the tomatoes. He may have watered the cucumbers, too!).

It is impossible that – CANNOT/CAN`T

(Tom can't be the owner of this ranch!).

It is (not) allowed/permitted to – CAN, MAY

(Can I feed the ducks? You may not/cannot feed the ducks!).

It is my advice that/it is recommended that /It is a good idea that – SHOULD

(You should make hay while the sun shines!)

I am sure that/I am almost certain that/It is probable – MUST

(He must be the owner of the cattle. He seems to know a lot about them**.)**

It is necessary /it is important/It is essential – MUST, NEED TO

He **must** weed the garden soon. They are all over the place!

It is necessary because of a rule or law /you are obliged to - HAVE TO

You have to weed the front garden unless you want to the community council to give you a fine.

You have to mow the grass after 8.30 a.m., it's the rule in our community**!).**

It is not necessary – DO NOT HAVE TO, DO NOT NEED TO

He doesn`t have/need to tend the garden, I have done it for him.

! Also: He NEEDN`T tend the garden, I have done it for him.

It is forbidden to – MUST NOT

You mustn't prune the trees during the summer**!**

Do you want me to (offer) – SHALL

Shall I check the chickencoop for eggs?

Now, let's practice some more!

1. Complete the sentences with a suitable modal verb from the box. First, try to understand meaning from the context. Then, take some time **to look up unknown** words.

(can, could, must, should, might)

You _____ be very careful when you **drive a tractor**.

When I was younger, I _____ **prune and trim the trees and shrubs in my orchard**.

He _____ **harvest** the crops in 2 days, but he's not sure yet.

You _____ cut the **wool off your sheep**. It's already summer!

I _____ help you with the **weeding of your garden**, if you like!

We _____ start work on the **new paddock** tomorrow if we have time.

You _____ not leave **the paddock** unlocked. **The foals** ----------escape.

Gardeners ----------**to dig the soil** and work carefully around other plants when they put new seeds in the ground.

Thomas----------possibly be the owner of that **flock**, he knows nothing about sheep!

Modal Verbs Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Option

Circle the correct modal verb to complete each sentence.

Then, work in pairs and **find equivalents of the words in bold, in your own language**:

You (must / might) want to **rake those leaves**, they make the garden look bad.

(Can / Should) you please open the **cowshed door** so as to let the **calves** out?

It (can / must) be a bit damp in **the silo — the grain** is not well preserved!

(Need / Could) you lend me your **spade? I need it to make some vegetable beds.**

You (must / might) not let the **sheep graze** here — it's illegal, it is not a public **meadow**.

Wheat, oats and barley (mustn`t /cannot) be cultivated here. It is not sunny enough!

This (can't/ shouldn`t) be a seeder. It **reaps and threshes grains, therefore, it is a harvester.**

You (needn't/mustn't) go near **a hive without protective coveralls and bee suits, including veils and hoods.**

Modal Verbs Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences so that the meaning stays the same:

Rewrite each sentence using a modal verb.

Then, starting from some words here we will brainstorm on other Tools, Places, animals and activities related to eco-farming.

It's necessary for **you** to build a **pigpen** with all the **piglets** you now have!

→ _____

It's possible that **the farmer plowed the field** yesterday.

→ _____

I had the ability **to harvest the crop** myself when I was younger.

→ _____

It's a good idea to use a **wheelbarrow** to carry these **beetroots.**

→ _You_____

It is not necessary for **the grain** to be stored in the barn.

→ _____

I forbid you to **harness** that horse yourself, you are too young!

→ _____

Perhaps **she** was working in the **dairy** when you called!

→ _____

I do not advise **you look the gift horse in the mouth**!

→ _____

Do you want me to check the chickencoop for eggs?

→ _____

I am sure Iustin is very good at **rearing rabbits**.

→ _____

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