

MODAL VERBS

1. Use one of the modal verbs in brackets to fill each gap.

- 1 They (can/might)_____ be away for the weekend but I'm not sure.
- 2 You (may/might)_____ leave now if you wish.
- 3 (Could/May)_____ you open the window a bit, please?
- 4 He (can/could)_____ be from Sheffield, judging by his accent.
- 5 (May/Can)_____ you swim?
- 6 Listen, please. You (may not/might not)_____ speak during this exam.
- 7 They (can't/may not)_____ still be out!
- 8 You (couldn't/might not)_____ smoke on the bus.
- 9 With luck, tomorrow (can/could)_____ be a cooler day.
- 10 You (can/might)_____ be right but I'm going back to check the times.

2. Choose the correct MODAL:

are, can, could, do, does, has, have, must, should, would

It may be rush hour in the Paris underground, but these days down here there are good reasons to slow down a little when commuting is more than just getting from A to B, when the transit #1_____ be too rapid.

Increasingly, the underground tunnels Parisians know as the Metro echo with music worth being late for. That wasn't, and even today, isn't always the case. There's never a shortage of those risking starvation by attempting to sing for their supper, and there's always someone to appreciate an artist struggling.

In the past, without much success, authorities periodically #2_____ tried to eject the would-be musicians who inflict themselves on the travelling public. But with their numbers continually growing, the situation seemed to be getting out of hand.

Transit officials came to the conclusion that if they #3_____ not beat the musicians at their game, perhaps they #4_____ perhaps join them, or at least organize it a little better. So just over a year ago, they set up auditions to select the 300-or-so performers who #5_____ become the official underground musicians of Paris.

And it is now an ongoing process. Every six months, all the officially sanctioned musicians, minus those who #6_____ found real work and plus those looking for a underground gig, #7_____ appear at a Metro audition.

Antone Nazo, a one-time guitar plucker himself, video tapes them all for approval by a music committee. "We #8_____ not have the pretension that we #9_____ selecting music virtuosos," Nazo says. "We just put ourselves in the shoes of the riders. We want good quality music, not too aggressive, and as diversified as possible."

Diversification #10_____ never been a problem in Paris. A city which, as a current exhibition on street musicians plainly illustrates, has more than two centuries of encouraging the artists who work its boulevard.

For those selected to be the Metro's officially sanctioned performers, there's a badge which ensures they #11_____ work uninterrupted by transit authority police, and which often guarantees as well a good well travelled spot in a busy metro station, which some musicians, when the mood of the travelling public is right, #12_____ mean as much as 600 euros a day in income.

Of course, that #13_____ not happen every day to everyone. But many down here are not looking for a fortune.

Paul Suzan said that "the people who play here play because they first of all, they love the music. But it keeps you in shape and gives you some pocket money".

After a year in operation, Metro authorities believe their official musicians #14_____ raised the quality of underground performances and the mood of the travelling public, and prove that there's more than one way an underground #15_____ move people.