

Modal Verbs

1. Complete the sentences using the words listed in the box below. Some gaps may have more than one correct answer.

can could have to must might should

1. Ted's flight from Amsterdam took more than 11 hours. He be exhausted after such a long flight. He prefer to stay in tonight and get some rest.

2. If you want to get a better feeling for how the city is laid out, you walk downtown and explore the waterfront.

3. Hiking the trail to the peak be dangerous if you are not well prepared for dramatic weather changes. You research the route a little more before you attempt the ascent.

4. When you have a small child in the house, you leave small objects lying around. Such objects be swallowed, causing serious injury or even death.

5. Dave: you hold your breath for more than a minute?

Nathan: No, I can't.

6. Jenny's engagement ring is enormous! It have cost a fortune.

7. Please make sure to water my plants while I am gone. If they don't get enough water, they die.

8. I speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Egypt. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child.

Now, I just say a few things in the language.

9. The book is optional. My professor said we read it if we needed extra credit. But we

read it if we don't want to.

10. Leo: Where is the spatula? It be in this drawer but it's not here.

Nancy: I just did a load of dishes last night and they're still in the dish washer. It be in there.

That's the only other place it be.

2. Fill in the spaces with the right modal verbs.

Example: I speak English very fluently. (key = can)

1. You run faster if you weren't so lazy.
2. You leave the class before 1 o'clock.
3. You behave well in front of guests. Stop being silly.
4. You look tired. You have some sleep.
5. You failed in your final test. You have studied harder.
6. I borrow your pen?



7. We watch TV so much.
 8. We not climb those mountains when we were kids.
 9. The project finish in two years time.
 10. Stop smoking! You really not smoke.
 11. Sami lift that heavy table. He is too weak.
 12. Muneera come to the party, but nobody is sure.
 13. Laila not swim when she was one year old.
 14. It's too cold. I close the window.
 15. It rain in the desert sometimes, but you can't depend on it.
 16. If I had enough money, I travel with my friends but now I can't.
 17. I to study well for the exam.
 18. I wish I buy a new car but I do not have any money.
 19. I have no time. I leave now. My parents are waiting for me.
 20. He be friendly, but he is usually unfriendly.
-

Answers

1

1. Ted's flight from Amsterdam took more than 11 hours. He **must** be exhausted after such a long flight. He **might** prefer to stay in tonight and get some rest.
2. If you want to get a better feeling for how the city is laid out, you **should** walk downtown and explore the waterfront.
3. Hiking the trail to the peak **can** be dangerous if you are not well prepared for dramatic weather changes. You **should** research the route a little more before you attempt the ascent.
4. When you have a small child in the house, you **shouldn't** leave small objects lying around. Such objects **can** be swallowed, causing serious injury or even death.
5. Dave: **Can** you hold your breath for more than a minute?
Nathan: No, I can't.
6. Jenny's engagement ring is enormous! It **must** have cost a fortune.

7. Please make sure to water my plants while I am gone. If they don't get enough water, they **might** die.

8. I **could** speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Egypt. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I **can** just say a few things in the language.

9. The book is optional. My professor said we **could** read it if we needed extra credit. But we **don't have to** read it if we don't want to.

10. Leo: Where is the spatula? It **should** be in this drawer but it's not here.

Nancy: I just did a load of dishes last night and they're still in the dish washer. It **must** be in there. That's the only other place it **could** be.

2

1 could, 2 must, 3 must/should, 4 should, 5 should, 6 May/Can, 7 shouldn't, 8 could, 9 may/might/will, 10 should, 11 couldn't, 12 may/might, 13 could, 14 will, 15 may/might, 16 would/could, 17 ought, 18 could, 19 must, 20 might

1. Have a look at these expressions with the word “time” and try to guess their meaning from the context. Then find a word or expression for these expressions in your language.

Exemplo: For the time being

1. **Time was** when it was considered unacceptable for English girls to live with their boyfriends without being married.
2. **Once upon a time**, there lived a fairy queen called Prunella.
3. The Pyramids were built **a long time ago**.
4. Did you have **a good time** at the party?
5. What **a waste of time!** I've waited all day for the plumber to arrive and he's still not here.
6. **For the time being**, we will have to make do with the camping cooker as a temporary measure until the other one is repaired.
7. Beverley is very punctual; she always arrives **on time**.
8. Am I **in time** for my appointment, or am I too late?
9. This is **(not a good time/not the best time)** to discuss this will; grandma has only been dead for four hours.
10. The **ideal time** to chat with strangers is when they are waiting for a bus, or waiting to be served in a supermarket queue.
11. **For a short time**, I wondered how deaf people could dance **in time** to disco music, but then I realised they could feel the vibration from the music.

1. Por ahora
2. A hora exacta
3. A tempo
4. Erase unha vez
5. Unha pérdida de tempo
6. Un rato agradable
7. Fai moito tempo

2. Fixate nas frases que seguen e tenta atopar unha expresión semellante para cada unha delas:

Exemplo: I ran out of time

1. Non me me chegou o tempo
2. Tómame un descanso
3. Acabouse o tempo
4. É hora de marchar

5. Hora de pechar/últimos pedidos
6. Cronometrados
7. Chegar á hora
8. Non pasa de moda
9. Chegou á tempo
10. Xa era hora

1. English pubs are pleasant, but I wish they wouldn't **call time** at 11pm.
2. Olympic skiers are **timed** during the slalom events.
3. Jane cannot be described as punctual, because she never arrives on time.
4. The style of dress which can be seen in the murals in the Pyramids would be acceptable today; it **is timeless**.
5. The paramedic was **in time** to deliver the baby, despite the blizzard.
6. I tried to finish the exam, but I couldn't because I **ran out of time**.
7. It's **high time** you bought a washing machine; you spend hours washing clothes by hand each week.
8. **It's time we left**; we are going to be late.
9. Can you help me? Whenever I try to access my email, an error message comes up to say that the process **has been timed out**.
10. You look unwell; **take time out** and come back when you feel better.



Answers

1

1. For the time being
2. on time
3. in time
4. once upon a time
5. a waste of time
6. a good time
7. a long time ago

2

1. I ran out of time
2. Take time out
3. has been timed out
4. It's time we left
5. call time
6. timed
7. arrive on time
8. it is timeless
9. was in time
10. it's high time

Writing a diary

1. Have you ever written a diary? What sort of information do you think people write in their diaries?, tick the ones you like
 - a) Impressions
 - b) Feelings
 - c) Problems
 - d) New experiences
 - e) Reflections

2. Have a look at this diary entry, what is it about?

As we grow older, making friends becomes more difficult. Wherever you move, whatever situation you put yourself in, you enter established systems, and the people you meet may not have the same needs as you. Certainly, as you get older your own need decreases. You have your wife or husband, your children, your established friends, and the need to add new people to these groups is less pressing.

3. Have a look at the rest of the paragraphs and try to order them

My circle here at work -- what one of the Sharjah girls calls my posse -- is reasonably well established now that I approach half a year in the desert. I was lucky enough to know a couple of people here from my time in the Concrete Kingdom of Swindon, so when I arrived I was able to base this circle around them. My friends are mostly people from the Dubai office, although there are now a few outsiders.

Moving overseas struck me very much like moving to university for the first time. There was that sense that everyone was away from home, having left behind those established systems. Most people are in a similar situation to yourself, alone and looking for someone to catch a beer with.

In a short time I find myself in a similar role that I occupied back home. I become the guy making the plans and phoning people; I often find myself leading the charge into unknown quarters of Dubai. Years ago I would have resented this role, as I worried that I had no aptitude for social organisation, but recently I have come to accept it. I will carry on until someone comes to take over the role. We do what we do.

I imagine for the people that moved over here with a partner it is different, but for the single person you suddenly find yourself having to make a group of entirely new friends, in a way that you have not had to do since you first left your parents' home.

4. Now try to write two paragraphs for your own diary. Hand your writing to your tutor to have it checked.

Answers

1. Free answers
2. Reflections and impressions
3. Here is the text as it was originally written

As we grow older, making friends becomes more difficult. Wherever you move, whatever situation you put yourself in, you enter established systems, and the people you meet may not have the same needs as you. Certainly, as you get older your own need decreases. You have your wife or husband, your children, your established friends, and the need to add new people to these groups is less pressing.

Moving overseas struck me very much like moving to university for the first time. There was that sense that everyone was away from home, having left behind those established systems. Most people are in a similar situation to yourself, alone and looking for someone to catch a beer with.

I imagine for the people that moved over here with a partner it is different, but for the single person you suddenly find yourself having to make a group of entirely new friends, in a way that you have not had to do since you first left your parents' home.

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In a short time I find myself in a similar role that I occupied back home. I become the guy making the plans and phoning people; I often find myself leading the charge into unknown quarters of Dubai. Years ago I would have resented this role, as I worried that I had no aptitude for social organisation, but recently I have come to accept it. I will carry on until someone comes to take over the role. We do what we do.