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C1 MODALS ≈ 27 MIN

Advanced Modal Nuance — *practice on paper*

You know the modal forms; now reinforce past habits, expectations, non-necessity, and formal stance with fresh examples.

Would describes repeated past actions; **should** expresses expectation; needn't removes necessity, while mustn't prohibits.

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD 1 · SORTING ○ 2 · FILL-IN ○ 3 · CORRECT ○ 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT ACTION AND STATE · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each retrospective. The left column has a repeated past action; the right column has a past state.

We'd brief the team each Thursday. | She would archive every final draft.

They'd review risks before each launch. | We would rotate the chair monthly.

He'd phone the supplier after lunch. | She used to be our legal lead.

I was responsible for Benelux. | The office used to be much smaller.

They were based near the station. | Our process used to be manual.

PAST ACTION	PAST STATE

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE THE INTENDED NUANCE · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Complete the appropriate modal form. Use the meaning or register cue to identify the answer.

01 Use expectation, not certainty: The figures _____ be ready by noon.

02 Use the widely neutral form: Staff _____ bring laptops; spares are available.

03 Choose the option with a British-formal tendency: Delegates _____ print the handout.

04 Choose formal permission: _____ I briefly interrupt?

05 Make a tentative proposal: _____ I suggest a shorter agenda?

06 Use modal-like dare: _____ he object during the vote?

07 Use the modal form for a repeated action: We _____ review requests every Friday.

08 Use used to: Marta _____ our export lead.

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · CORRECT THE MODAL NUANCE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence contains exactly one error in meaning or form. Rewrite the complete sentence correctly.

01 Participation is optional, so staff mustn't attend.

02 She needn't to bring a printed copy.

03 In 2019, our main hub would be in Oslo.

04 The revised draft should ready by five.

05 May I suggesting one small change?

06 Nobody dares question the chair's ruling.

BRICK 4 · EXPRESS STANCE AND REGISTER · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one English sentence or mini-paragraph for each prompt. Choose every modal form for its specific function.

01 Project status: give two grounded expectations with should without guaranteeing certainty.

02 Team note: contrast one optional action with a clear prohibition.

03 Retrospective: name two past routines with would and one past state with used to.

04 Negotiation: ask formal permission, make a tentative suggestion, and use dare in a marked expression.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- [ ] I separate repeated past actions from past states.
- [ ] I distinguish non-necessity with needn't or don't need to from prohibition with mustn't.
- [ ] I use should for a grounded expectation, not a guarantee.
- [ ] I treat may, might, needn't, and dare as register signals with typical tendencies.

Unsure? Mark time, function, and register first, then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 We'd brief the team each Thursday.
Past action: each Thursday.

02 She would archive every final draft.
Past action: every final draft.

03 They'd review risks before each launch.
Past action: before each launch.

04 We would rotate the chair monthly.
Past action: monthly.

05 He'd phone the supplier after lunch.
Past action: repeated phone.

06 She used to be our legal lead.
Past state: used to be.

07 I was responsible for Benelux.
Past state: was responsible.

08 The office used to be much smaller.
Past state: used to be smaller.

09 They were based near the station.
Past state: were based.

10 Our process used to be manual.
Past state: used to be manual.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 The figures **should** be ready by noon.
Expectation: schedule + should.

02 Staff **don't need to** bring laptops.
Tendency, neutral: don't need to.

03 Delegates **needn't** print the handout.
Tendency, British-formal: needn't.

04 **May** I briefly interrupt?
Tendency, formal: may + permission.

05 **Might** I suggest a shorter agenda?
Tendency, tentative: might + suggestion.

06 **Dare** he object during the vote?
Dare rule: question without do-support.

07 We **would** review requests every Friday.
Habit: would + every Friday.

08 Marta **used to be** our export lead.
State: used to be + role.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 Staff **don't need to** attend.
Meaning: optional = don't need to.

02 She **needn't bring** a copy.
Form: needn't + infinitive without to.

03 Our main hub **was** in Oslo.
State: location requires was.

04 The draft **should be** ready by five.
Form: should + be.

05 **May I suggest** one change?
Form: may + suggest.

06 Nobody **dare question** the chair's ruling.
Dare rule: no -s + infinitive.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Check time, meaning, form, and register tendency.

01 The legal review **should finish by noon**, and the signed copy **should arrive before four**.
Expectation: plan basis + should.

02 You **needn't attend** the optional recap, but you **mustn't share** the confidential draft.
Meaning: needn't = optional; mustn't = ban.

03 We **would reconcile** the figures and **would call** finance each month; the process **used to be** manual.
Time: would = routine; used to be = state.

04 **May I add** one condition? **Might I suggest** a trial period? I **dare say** both sides would benefit.
Tendency, formal: may/might; dare say marked.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

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