

Modals and Semi-Modals

Modals

can / can't

should / shouldn't

must / mustn't

could / couldn't

might / might not

may / may not

Semi-Modals

able to / not able to

ought to / ought not to

have to / not have to

Circle the best modal or semi-modal verb.

1. I (can / might) ride a bike very well.
2. You (could / should) brush your teeth every night.
3. He (must / could) finish his homework before class.
4. I (can / can't) sing. Everyone loves my voice.
5. They (shouldn't / might not) smoke in the house.
6. She (ought to / able to) study English more.
7. My brother (may / have to) come home early.
8. A dog (mustn't / couldn't) bite a person.
9. She's (able to / must) cook spaghetti.
10. I (could / can't) arrive early because my bike is broken.

Fill in the blank with a modal or semi-modal verb.

11. You _____ sleep so much.
12. _____ I stay out late tonight?
13. You _____ cheat on the test.
14. She _____ be tall, but I don't know.
15. You're dirty. You _____ take a shower.

Modals and Semi-Modals

ANSWERS

Circle the best modal or semi-modal verb.

1. I (**can** / might) ride a bike very well.
2. You (could / **should**) brush your teeth every night.
3. He (**must** / could) finish his homework before class.
4. I (**can** / can't) sing. Everyone loves my voice.
5. They (**shouldn't** / might not) smoke in the house.
6. She (**ought to** / able to) study English more.
7. My brother (**may** / have to) come home early.
8. A dog (**mustn't** / couldn't) bite a person.
9. She's (**able to** / must) cook spaghetti.
10. I (could / **can't**) arrive early because my bike is broken.

Fill in the blank with a modal or semi-modal verb.

11. You shouldn't / mustn't / ought not to sleep so much.
12. Can / Could / May I stay out late tonight?
13. You shouldn't / mustn't / ought not to cheat on the test.
14. She may / might / could be tall, but I don't know.
15. You're dirty. You should / must take a shower.