



Modal Verbs - Permission and Prohibition

Modal Verbs – Permission and Prohibition

A. Fill the Gaps

Complete the sentences using the correct modal verb: **can**, **can't**, **may**, **might**, or **mustn't**.

1. You _____ smoke inside the restaurant. It's not allowed.
2. _____ I use your phone to make a call?
3. You _____ take photos in this museum. It's forbidden.
4. Students _____ leave the classroom without permission.
5. You _____ park here after 6 p.m. It's allowed.
6. _____ I borrow your notebook for a minute?
7. We _____ play loud music in the library. It's not permitted.
8. You _____ enter the concert hall without a ticket.
9. He _____ drive the car after he gets his license.
10. You _____ eat in class. It's against the rules.

B. Match the Sentences

Match the sentences (1-5) with their meanings (A-E).

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. You mustn't enter this area. | A. It's forbidden to enter. |
| 2. You may come in now. | B. Asking for permission to leave early. |
| 3. You can't park here. | C. Permission is given to come in. |
| 4. May I leave early today? | D. A suggestion to bring something. |
| 5. You might want to bring a jacket. | E. It's not allowed to park here. |

C. Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite the sentences using the correct modal verb for **permission** or **prohibition**.

1. It's not allowed to use your phone during the exam.
You _____ use your phone during the exam.
2. Is it okay if I borrow your book for a week?
_____ I borrow your book for a week?
3. You are not allowed to take drinks into the classroom.
You _____ take drinks into the classroom.
4. You are allowed to leave early today.
You _____ leave early today.
5. It's not allowed to bring pets to the office.
You _____ bring pets to the office.

Discussion

Talking about Permission - **Can, Could, May**

Talking about Prohibition - **Can't, Must not & Mustn't**

Pair work. *[The more you speak, the better your fluency!]*

Use the topics below to practice talking about these modal verbs. You can either make statements or ask questions.

Use can, could, may (permission), and can't, must not & mustn't (prohibition) for each topic.

Topics

1. Take the bus
2. Go for lunch
3. In the Cinema
4. Visit your grandma
5. Watch TV
6. Do homework
7. Do housework (chores)
8. Get ready for school/work
9. Go to the park
10. A bicycle ride



Teacher's Key

Modal Verbs – Permission and Prohibition

A. Fill the Gaps

Complete the sentences using the correct modal verb: **can**, **can't**, **may**, **might**, or **mustn't**.

1. You **mustn't** smoke inside the restaurant. It's not allowed.
2. **May** I use your phone to make a call?
3. You **mustn't** take photos in this museum. It's forbidden.
4. Students **can't** leave the classroom without permission.
5. You **can** park here after 6 p.m. It's allowed.
6. **May** I borrow your notebook for a minute?
7. We **can't** play loud music in the library. It's not permitted.
8. You **can't** enter the concert hall without a ticket.
9. He **can** drive the car after he gets his license.
10. You **mustn't** eat in class. It's against the rules.

B. Match the Sentences

Match the sentences (1-5) with their meanings (A-E).

1. **A** (It's forbidden to enter.)
2. **C** (Permission is given to come in.)
3. **E** (It's not allowed to park here.)
4. **B** (Asking for permission to leave early.)
5. **D** (A suggestion to bring something.)

C. Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite the sentences using the correct modal verb for **permission** or **prohibition**.

1. It's not allowed to use your phone during the exam.
You **mustn't** use your phone during the exam.
2. Is it okay if I borrow your book for a week?
May I borrow your book for a week?
3. You are not allowed to take drinks into the classroom.
You **can't** take drinks into the classroom.
4. You are allowed to leave early today.
You **can** leave early today.
5. It's not allowed to bring pets to the office.
You **mustn't** bring pets to the office.