

Giving advice

Using modal verbs

Do's & Don'ts – Crossing Cultures

What should you advise your foreign friends to do or not to do in the following situations?

- When visiting a temple
- When greeting a Thai
- When interacting with a Thai
- When out in public
- When in a restaurant

What are modal verbs?

- The modal verbs of English are a small class of auxiliary verbs used mostly to express modality (properties such as possibility, obligation, etc.). They can be distinguished from other verbs by their defectiveness (they do not have participle or infinitive forms) and by the fact that they do not take the ending *-(e)s* in the third-person singular.

USE of MODAL VERBS

Modal verbs are used to express functions such as:

- Permission

- Ability

- Obligation

- Possibility

Prohibition

Lack of necessity

Advice

Probability

| MODALS | EXPRESSING | EXAMPLES |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| must | Strong obligation | You must stop when the traffic lights turn red. |
| | Logical conclusion/ Certainty | He must be very tired. He's been working all day long. |
| mustn't | Prohibition | You mustn't smoke in the hospital. |
| can | Ability/ Permission/ Possibility | I can swim. Can I use your phone? Smoking can cause cancer. |
| may | Permission/ Possibility/ Probability | May I use your phone? It may rain tomorrow. |
| need not | Lack of necessity/ Absence of obligation | I needn't buy tomatoes. There are plenty in the fridge. |
| have to / don't have to | Necessity/ Lack of necessity | You have to practice more to get better grades. You don't have to wear a uniform on Saturday. |

Practice 1

- **Choose the right modal verb**

1. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge.

You buy any.

2. It's a hospital. You smoke.

3. He has been working for more than 11 hours. He be tired after such hard work. He prefer to get some rest.

Practice 1 (continued)

4. I speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco. 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.

5. The teacher said we read this book for our own pleasure as it is optional. But we if we do not want to.

Practice 1 (continued)

6. you stand on your head for more than a minute?

No, I

7. If you want to learn to speak English fluently, you
to work hard.

8. Take an umbrella. It rain later.

Practice 1 (continued)

9. You..... leave small objects lying around.
Such objects be swallowed by children.
10. People walk on grass.
11. Drivers stop when the traffic lights are red.

Practice1 (continued)

12.I ask a question? Yes, of course.

13. You take your umbrella. It is not raining.

14. you speak Italian? No, I

Practice1 (continued)

15. You have a passport to cross the border.

16. Elisabeth apply for her visa by March 10th.

17. I drop by his room to pick up a book.

Practice 2

Choose the correct answer.

1. You _____ tell Anna about the party tomorrow night. It's a surprise! (must not, need to, doesn't have to)
2. Tina _____ register for her classes on Monday, otherwise she won't get a place in them. (doesn't have to, mustn't, has to)
3. You _____ send that fax. I've already sent it. (must, will have to, don't have to)

Practice 2 (continue)

4. A dog _____ get special training in order to be a guide dog. (must, need to, don't have to)
5. Jeremy _____ get up early tomorrow. His class was cancelled. (mustn't, doesn't have to, don't need to)

How would you suggest people in the following situations using modal verbs?

1. A young foreigner is going to temple, but she doesn't know what to wear.

She _____wear shorts or slippers.

She _____dress properly.

How would you suggest people in the following situations using modal verbs?

2. You are going to introduce your American friend to your family. What do you suggest to him when greeting Thai people?

How would you suggest people in the following situations using modal verbs?

He _____ shake hands, but he _____ greet with the traditional *wai*.

You _____ *wai* a child or anybody of lower status.

You _____ introduce yourself with your first name.

How would you suggest people in the following situations using modal verbs?

3. When invited to someone's home, your American friend _____ take off his shoes.