

Modals of permission theory quiz

1: Which two modal verbs do we usually use to ask for permission?

- a) Could / ought.
- b) Can / could.
- c) Must / can.
- d) May / should.

2: Which modal do we most often use to ask permission from other adults?

- a) Can.
- b) Could.
- c) Might.
- d) May.

3: When is 'may' most often used to ask for permission?

- a) Between friends.
- b) Between two children.
- c) Between two adults.
- d) Between a child and an adult.

4: Which of these modals is very, very rarely used now to ask for permission?

- a) Can.
- b) Could.
- c) Might.
- d) May.

5: What word do we usually NOT use in the reply when someone asks for permission?

- a) Can.
- b) Could.
- c) Be allowed to.
- d) Can't.

6: When do we use 'be allowed to' to ask for permission?

- a) Adults asking about an outside rule.
- b) Children asking adults.
- c) Both.

7: What word do we use to talk about hypothetical permission in the present / future?

- a) Can.
- b) Can't.
- c) Could.
- d) Be allowed to.

8: Do we use 'can' and 'could' to ask about permission in the future?

- a) No.
- b) We only use 'will be allowed to'.
- c) Yes, with a future time word.

9: When do we use 'will be allowed to' to ask for permission?

- a) To stress that the permission is important.
- b) To stress that the person is asking about permission for later.
- c) To stress that the person is talking about the past.
- d) To stress that the person needs permission immediately.

10: What word CAN'T we use to talk about specific permission in the past?

- a) Couldn't.
- b) Wasn't / weren't allowed to.
- c) Could.
- d) Was / were allowed to.

11: What do we use to talk about hypothetical or conditional permission in the past?

- a) Can't have + past participle.
- b) Might have + past participle.
- c) Can have + past participle.
- d) Could have + past participle.

12: What does 'could I NOT go to the party' mean?

- a) I'm asking 'isn't it allowed for me to go to the party?'
- b) I'm asking for permission to stay at home.
- c) I'm asking for permission for someone else to go to the party with me.

13: When do we use 'can ... NOT' with the stress on 'not'.

- a) To talk about hypothetical permission.
- b) To say that it's okay not to do something.
- c) To say that something wasn't allowed in the past.

14: Which words do we use to talk about rules and laws in the present?

- a) Should / might / can't / couldn't.
- b) Could / can't / must / be (not) allowed to.
- c) Could / couldn't / mustn't / should.
- d) Can / can't / mustn't / be (not) allowed to.

15: What modals can we use for the rules of exams and competitions?

- a) Will / shall.
- b) Might / must.
- c) Should / ought.

16: What do we use to talk about general permission or rules and laws in the past?

- a) Could / couldn't / can / can't.
- b) Can / can't / was or were (not) allowed to.
- c) Could / couldn't / was or were (not) allowed to.
- d) Was / were (not) allowed to only.

17: What word can we use (as well as 'can't) to tell someone that something isn't allowed?

- a) Could.
- b) Oughtn't.
- c) Can.
- d) Mustn't.

18: What two modal uses are sometimes very difficult to distinguish?

- a) Permission and advice.
- b) Permission and possibility.
- c) Permission and willingness.
- d) Permission and prediction.

Answers to modals of permission theory quiz

1: Which two modal verbs do we usually use to ask for permission?

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13: When do we use 'can ... NOT' with the stress on 'not'.

- a) To talk about hypothetical permission.
- b) **To say that it's okay not to do something.**
- c) To say that something wasn't allowed in the past.

14: Which words do we use to talk about rules and laws in the present?

- a) Should / might / can't / couldn't.
- b) Could / can't / must / be (not) allowed to.
- c) Could / couldn't / mustn't / should.
- d) **Can / can't / mustn't / be (not) allowed to.**

15: What modals can we use for the rules of exams and competitions?

- a) **Will / shall.**
- b) Might / must.
- c) Should / ought.

16: What do we use to talk about general permission or rules and laws in the past?

- a) Could / couldn't / can / can't.
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- b) **Permission and possibility.**
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