

# Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36

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## FOCUS      Modals

**Modals** are helping verbs that describe different conditional states of a verb.

### CONNECT TO WRITING

Modals show these conditions for their verbs: need, advice, ability, expectation, requirement, permission, or possibility. Modals are placed before verbs to form verb phrases. English regularly uses eight modals: *can, could, may, might, must, should, will, and would*; two are rarely used: *ought to* and *shall*.

**Examples:** Dennis can eat a lot of pie. (ability) Shelly might become a doctor. (possibility) Toby could use some exercise. (need)

Never use the word *of* after a modal.

**Example:** Use “must have,” not “must of.”

### PRACTICE

In the spaces provided following each sentence, list which of these conditions best matches the modals: need, advice, ability, expectation, requirement, permission, or possibility

1. Yes, you may go to the restroom. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I could have tried harder on my science project. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If we decide to go, we will have to leave by three o'clock. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We would have to use more glue to make it stick. \_\_\_\_\_
5. You definitely should have written a thank-you card. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Melvin can help you if you want. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Students must learn to use modals properly. \_\_\_\_\_

### WRITE

Write a sentence or two, using two modal helping verbs to describe two different conditions.

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## **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers**

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31 Practice Answers**

1. closer 2. harder 3. more 4. worse 5. happier

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32 Practice Answers**

1. quickest 2. more 3. biggest 4. best

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33 Practice Answers**

1. more (less) difficult 2. more outstanding 3. more (less) incredible  
4. more ridiculous 5. more (less) suspiciously 6. more (less) suspected 7. more (less) nervously

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34 Practice Answers**

1. most considerate 2. least specifically 3. most carefully 4. most understood  
5. most simply 6. least frequently

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35 Practice Answers**

was LV; had HV told; were HV going; did HV not turn LV; to be LV; would HV not have HV lied; felt LV; had HV; would HV be LV; seems LV; should HV find

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36 Practice Answers**

1. permission 2. possibility 3. requirement 4. need 5. expectation 6. ability  
7. advice

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #37 Practice Answers**

1. Penny helped at the senior center after school. 2. Cowboys roped and branded their cattle.  
3. That radio station played all of my favorite songs. 4. Tamesia touched her left cheek every time she raised her hand in class.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #38 Practice Answers**

1. Larry was enjoying the beautiful sunsets at the beach. 2. They were expecting a lot of money for their used car. 3. Her friends were sleeping in the living room when the fire alarm sounded.  
4. Rosie was going to the movies.