

Modal verbs *could, would, need to*

Modal verbs can show the speaker's attitude or feelings about a specific situation. They can also help us express probability, necessity, requests and offers.

Request

Could you help me, please?

Would you pass the salt, please?

Can you do me a favor, please?

Offer

Can I help you?

Could I do something for you?

Would you like me to help you?

The verb *need* can be used as an ordinary verb or as an auxiliary verb. As an ordinary verb, *need* is used in the sense of "require." It's usually followed by the base form of the verb with *to*.

Passengers need to be punctual.

Questions and negatives are made with *do* and *does*.

Do you need to go now?

She doesn't need to talk to him.

Task 1: Complete these sentences with *would, can, could* or *need*.

1. _____ I use your computer to send an e-mail?
2. _____ you lend me that book?
3. You _____ to rest. You look tired.
4. _____ you open the window, please?
5. She _____ go to work now. (negative)
6. _____ they _____ to practice more?

Task 2: Circle the correct option.

1. Entrance to the museum was free. We didn't _____ to pay to get in.
a. need b. would c. can
2. Already as a child Mozart _____ play the piano beautifully.
a. can b. need c. could
3. _____ I take a photograph of you?
a. Would b. Can c. Need
4. A: Whose is this bag? B: I don't know, but it _____ belong to Sarah.
a. would b. could c. need
5. _____ you like a cup of coffee?
a. Need b. Could c. Would