# **MODAL VERBS I**

## Form and use:

- Modals do not take a final -s, even when the subject is she, he, it (She can do it.). The only exception is have to: She has to do it.
- > Modals have the same form in all persons.
- > Modals are followed immediately by the simple form of a verb (= infinitive). (She can do it.)
- There is NO do or does in questions or negative phrases. When we want to make a question we just change the word order. (She can do it. Can she do it? She cannot do it.) The only exception is have to: Does she have to do it? She doesn't have to do it.

Modal verbs	Czech eqv.	Use	
can / can't		ability (=>schopnost):	
		Sue can dance quite well but she can't sing.	
		permission (=>povolení):	
		You can't come in here.	
		Can we go home now?	
must		necessity/obligation (=> nutnost/povinnost):	
		You must clean your room.	
need not		lack of necessity (=> není to nutné)	
		He needn't come in person, he can send an email.	
have to		necessity/obligation (=> nutnost, povinnost):	
		You can't turn right. You have to turn left.	
don't have to		it's not necessary (=> není to nutné):	
		We don't have to arrive on time.	
mustn't		you can't do st. because it's prohibited (=> zákaz):	
		You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone.	
should /shouldn't			
		suggestion) (=> rada, návrh):	
		You look tired. You should go to bed.	
would / wouldn't		a hypothetical action or event in the present (=>hypotetická	
		možnost v přítomnosti):	
		I would go there if I had time. (But I don't have it.)	
may / may not	y / may not it's (not) possible (=>možnost): see Modals II – Degrees of cer		
		It may/might be true.	
might / might not		I'm not sure whether I can lend you any money. I may not have enough.	
(carries less probability		formal permission (=>"smím"):	
than "may")		May we leave the room? – Yes, you may.	

### PRACTICE

- 1 Complete the sentences. Use must, mustn't, don't/doesn't have to.
- 1 We haven't got much time. We \_\_\_\_\_ hurry.

2 We have enough food at home so we \_\_\_\_\_ go shopping today.

- 3 Jim gave me a letter to post yesterday. I \_\_\_\_\_ remember to post it today.
- 4 Jim gave me a letter to post yesterday. I \_\_\_\_\_ forget to post it today.
- 5 There is plenty of time for you to make up your mind. You \_\_\_\_\_\_ decide now.

6 Jane \_\_\_\_\_\_ wash those tomatoes. They've already been washed.

7 This is a valuable book. You \_\_\_\_\_ look after it carefully and you \_\_\_\_\_ lose it.

8 "What sort of house do you want to buy?" "Well, it \_\_\_\_\_ be big, that's not important. But it \_\_\_\_\_ have a nice garden, because I love flowers."

### 2 Complete the sentences. Use *mustn't* or *don't have to*.

- 1 The windows aren't very dirty. You \_\_\_\_\_ clean them.
- 2 Keep these documents in a safe place. You \_\_\_\_\_ lose them.
- 3 We \_\_\_\_\_\_ forget to turn off the lights before we leave.
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_\_ write the letter now. I can do it tomorrow.

### 3 Choose the correct completion according to the meaning.

- 1 She got the job because she \_\_\_\_\_ speak five languages.
  - a. must b. can
- 2 A: "I have a toothache." B: "You \_\_\_\_\_ go to a doctor."

a. would b. should

3 They \_\_\_\_\_\_ finish the bridge in time for the holiday traffic though I'm a bit sceptical about it.

- a. might b. would
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ go any farther. I am exhausted.
  - a. cannot b. may not
- 5 If you asked me nicely, I \_\_\_\_\_ buy you that sweater.
  - a. may b. would
- 6 You \_\_\_\_\_ make so much noise. He is trying to concentrate.
  - a. wouldn't b. shouldn't

### 4 Translate the sentences using suitable modal verbs.

	Czech	English
1	Můj bratr neumí lyžovat.	
2	Možná bude odpoledne pršet.	
3	Měl bys mu zavolat.	
4	Nemusíš odpovídat na ten email, já to udělám.	
5	Navštívil bys mne až budu v nemocnici?	
6	Musíš se rozhodnout dnes.	
7	Můžeme jet na hory?	
8	Nesmíte zde kouřit.	
9	Neměl bys tam chodit.	
10	Jana si bude si muset najít novou práci.	