

Practice Exercises – Modal Verbs (Obligation)

Review the *Modal Verbs used to express Obligation* before doing the exercises. Choose the answer that is grammatically correct in the context of the sentence. There is only one correct answer.

Practice Exercises – Modal Verbs (Obligation):

1. Al: "Bob's planning to go to Paris." Ann: "He _____ go in the summer when the weather is much better."
 - a. ought
 - b. mustn't
 - c. can't
 - d. should
2. Family doctors _____ tell their patients not to use antibiotics for minor illnesses.
 - a. should
 - b. have
 - c. had
 - d. need
3. I bought this jacket yesterday, but it's too small. I _____ to exchange it for a bigger one.
 - a. must
 - b. should
 - c. have
 - d. can
4. There's plenty of time to catch the 5 o'clock train. We _____ hurry.
 - a. mustn't
 - b. don't have to
 - c. don't need
 - d. haven't
5. You _____ forget John's birthday tomorrow.
 - a. mustn't
 - b. don't have to
 - c. don't let
 - d. haven't
6. You really _____ drive more carefully, or you'll have an accident one of these days.
 - a. have
 - b. need
 - c. may
 - d. must
7. I _____ to work yesterday. It was a national holiday.
 - a. mustn't
 - b. didn't have
 - c. hadn't
 - d. couldn't

8. You _____ be more patient with your children.
- need
 - have
 - should
 - had
9. You _____ make more than five mistakes on this test or you'll fail.
- mustn't
 - don't have to
 - hadn't
 - don't need
10. Did you _____ get up early when you were a child?
- must
 - have to
 - might
 - could
11. I'm going to a formal dinner party tonight. I _____ wear casual clothes.
- don't have to
 - mustn't
 - 'm not allowed
 - don't need
12. Doctors say that you _____ eat too many sweets.
- haven't
 - don't have to
 - shouldn't
 - don't allow
13. Yesterday I _____ go to Rome for an IT conference.
- must
 - have to
 - should
 - had to
14. You _____ talk in a loud voice in the library. You'll disturb the others.
- don't have to
 - don't need
 - mustn't
 - might not
15. I've had a sore throat for a week. Tonight I _____ to go to the doctor's.
- must
 - have
 - should
 - may

16. You _____ give others advice if they don't ask for it.

- a. shouldn't
- b. don't have
- c. haven't
- d. don't need

17. You're always late! You _____ arrive on time or you'll be fired.

- a. ought
- b. must
- c. had
- d. 've got

18. People know they _____ smoke in public places.

- a. mustn't
- b. don't have to
- c. not let
- d. haven't

19. You look stressed. You _____ take some time off and relax.

- a. had
- b. have
- c. should
- d. need

20. Jill _____ to stay up late last night to finish her report.

- a. need
- b. must
- c. has
- d. had

21. I _____ to go to the supermarket. There isn't any more milk or bread in the house.

- a. have
- b. must
- c. should
- d. will

22. We _____ to leave the conference now because John's going to drive us home.

- a. mustn't
- b. don't have
- c. hadn't
- d. shouldn't

23. I forgot to phone the dentist yesterday. I _____ call him right now.

- a. have
- b. need
- c. must
- d. got

24. You _____ to stop criticizing other people all the time, otherwise you'll never have any friends.

- a. ought
- b. should
- c. must
- d. had

25. The curtains aren't dirty. I _____ to wash them now.

- a. don't have
- b. didn't
- c. mustn't
- d. needn't

26. Mary gained a lot of weight recently. She _____ see a doctor.

- a. needs
- b. has
- c. ought
- d. should

27. I've been waiting for you since 9 a.m. Do you _____ keep me waiting all the time?

- a. have to
- b. had to
- c. must
- d. need

28. This document is very important. You _____ lose it.

- a. don't have to
- b. didn't have to
- c. haven't
- d. mustn't

29. All citizens _____ pay their taxes every year.

- a. must
- b. have
- c. had
- d. need

30. You got home late last night so you _____ go to bed late tonight.

- a. 've got
- b. shouldn't
- c. don't have to
- d. haven't

31. Jimmy _____ treat his parents so disrespectfully.

- a. mustn't
- b. hasn't
- c. doesn't let
- d. doesn't need

32. They couldn't afford to buy a house last year, so they _____ to rent an apartment.

- a. must
- b. had
- c. should
- d. got

33. You _____ steal fruit from other people's trees.

- a. aren't allowed
- b. don't have to
- c. mustn't
- d. haven't

34. You _____ wipe your feet before coming into the house!

- a. have
- b. need
- c. should
- d. got

35. You _____ come to dinner with us tonight, if you don't feel like it. You can join us next Tuesday.

- a. can't
- b. don't have to
- c. don't need
- d. haven't

36. Jane _____ to eat more fruit and vegetables.

- a. must
- b. need
- c. ought
- d. have