

Practice Exercises – Moda I Verbs (Ability / Possibility / Permission)

Review the *Modal Verbs used to express Ability, Possibility, Permission* 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 – Moda I Verbs (Ability / Possibility / Permission):

1. My daughter _____ to speak three languages at the age of five.
 - a. could
 - b. can
 - c. was able
 - d. may

2. There's a small chance that I _____ get a pay raise at the end of the year.
 - a. might
 - b. be able to
 - c. ought
 - d. have

3. Alice: " _____ your sister dance the tango?" Sue: "Not very well."
 - a. Is able
 - b. May
 - c. Can
 - d. Has

4. I _____ stay up late every night when I was in high school.
 - a. could
 - b. may
 - c. can
 - d. will

5. John _____ play golf when he was younger, but now he can.
 - a. can't
 - b. couldn't
 - c. wasn't able
 - d. doesn't

6. How many times _____ the U.S. President be elected?
 - a. is allowed
 - b. has
 - c. is able
 - d. can

7. After a few more lessons, Bill will _____ swim like a fish.
 - a. can
 - b. be able to
 - c. could
 - d. might

8. Ann: " _____ there be enough time to do some last-minute shopping before our flight?" Al: "No, not enough."
 - a. Is
 - b. Must
 - c. Won't
 - d. Wasn't

9. Nowadays people _____ smoke in public places any more. It's against the law.
 - a. can't
 - b. couldn't
 - c. don't let
 - d. doesn't

10. Does the weather forecast say that it _____ snow tonight?
a. may
b. has
c. able to
d. is
11. At present, I _____ roller skate as well as my sister, but I'm going to keep practicing.
a. won't
b. can't
c. 'm not able
d. don't know
12. My daughter _____ wear jeans to school when she was fifteen. They weren't allowed.
a. can't
b. couldn't
c. won't
d. may not
13. The dentist _____ see you today. He has too many appointments.
a. can't
b. mustn't
c. isn't allowed
d. isn't able
14. I _____ go to the gym yesterday because I had to work overtime.
a. might not
b. can't
c. couldn't
d. may not
15. Tourists can visit Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay but they _____ to sleep there.
a. may not
b. mustn't
c. aren't allowed
d. can't
16. You _____ to get your money back, if you return your ticket no later than a week before your flight.
a. will
b. can
c. could
d. 'll be able
17. Nobody _____ travel to India without a passport.
a. is allowed
b. can
c. may not
d. isn't able to
18. I _____ play the piano when I was seven.
a. can
b. could
c. was able
d. will
19. _____ I please use your computer while you're out to lunch?
a. Would
b. Should
c. May
d. Will

20. I _____ go out to dinner with you tonight because I have to get up early tomorrow.
- not able to
 - don't have
 - can't
 - haven't
21. John still _____ ski well, although he's been skiing for many years.
- doesn't know
 - not able to
 - can't
 - don't
22. The boys _____ go wherever they liked while they were on vacation last summer.
- may
 - might
 - could
 - can
23. After studying English for many years, Cecilia will _____ speak it quite well.
- can
 - be able to
 - could
 - may
24. This weekend I _____ go to Rome to visit my sister. I haven't decided yet, though.
- can
 - might
 - am able
 - will
25. Jane _____ have a dog because animals aren't allowed in her apartment building.
- can't
 - not permitted to
 - doesn't let
 - not allowed
26. By this time next year, I'll _____ read and write Chinese much better.
- can
 - be able to
 - could
 - should
27. My mother has such a good memory; she _____ remember everything.
- might
 - can
 - able to
 - ought
28. It _____ rain tomorrow, according to the weather forecast.
- might
 - ought
 - need
 - doesn't
29. You _____ put your car in our garage for the night, if you want to.
- might
 - can
 - able to
 - allowed to

30. My sister still _____ ride a bike when she was ten.
a. can't
b. wasn't able
c. couldn't
d. may not
31. If it doesn't rain soon, we _____ have to use less water.
a. may
b. can
c. must
d. ought
32. I _____ wear makeup when I was sixteen.
a. can't
b. wasn't allowed
c. couldn't
d. may not
33. _____ you able to bake a cake?
a. Do
b. Could
c. Are
d. Can
34. After twenty years of marriage, Martha still _____ to cook well.
a. can't
b. couldn't
c. isn't able
d. might not
35. I _____ to give you Ms. Brown's e-mail address without her permission.
a. don't
b. can't
c. mustn't
d. 'm not allowed
36. My grandmother _____ leave the hospital tomorrow; the doctor said so.
a. is able
b. can
c. let
d. is allowed
37. Dogs that do not receive enough exercise _____ develop behavioral problems.
a. can
b. should
c. are able
d. have
38. You _____ be able to succeed in life if you aren't able to face challenges.
a. won't
b. couldn't
c. aren't
d. can't