Modal verbs in real situations

10 practice questions • Padworth Learning Studio

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. It is optional. You ___ attend.

must not / do not have to / cannot

My answer: _____

2. The sign says entry is forbidden. You ___ enter.

must not / need not / might

My answer: _____

3. You look tired. You ___ take a break.

should / must to / should to

My answer: _____

4. I am not certain, but the library ___ be open.

must / might / has to

My answer: _____

5. Students ___ borrow up to four books under the library rules.

can / should to / must to

My answer: _____

6. You ___ touch that wire. It is dangerous.

might not / must not / do not have to

My answer: _____

7. Attendance is optional, so you ___ come.

do not have to / must not / cannot

My answer: _____

8. I’m not sure, but it ___ rain later.

must / has to / might

My answer: _____

9. You look tired. You ___ take a break.

would have / should / must have

My answer: _____

10. She ___ swim when she was six.

could / can / may

My answer: _____

Answer key & explanations

1. **do not have to** — Do not have to removes obligation. Must not would prohibit attendance.

2. **must not** — Must not expresses prohibition.

3. **should** — Should gives advice and takes the base form.

4. **might** — Might expresses a possibility, not certainty.

5. **can** — Can expresses permission here.

6. **must not** — Must not expresses prohibition; do not have to means there is no obligation.

7. **do not have to** — Do not have to means coming is not required, not that it is forbidden.

8. **might** — Might expresses uncertainty. Must and has to express stronger necessity or deduction.

9. **should** — Should gives advice about what to do now.

10. **could** — Could expresses general ability in the past.