**Modal Verbs**

**CAN**
- is used to convey the idea of possibility and ability.
- It is also used to give permission.
- *(can’t)* is used to refuse permission.

I can swim in the pool.

**SHOULD**
- is used when we want to give a strong opinion, telling someone the best thing to do.
- is common used to give an advice.

You should drive carefully in bad weather.

**SHOULDN’T**
- is common used to give an advice. It is the negative form of *(SHOULD)*

You shouldn’t ride your bicycle at night without lights. It’s dangerous.

**MUST**
- generally refers to internal obligation (the speaker feels something is necessary).
- *(must)* is used to talk about obligations.
- Often, it is used when the authority for the obligation comes from the person who is speaking.
- is not very common in questions.

I failed in the exam. I must study harder.

**MUSTN’T**
- Usually used to talk about Prohibitions. It is a strong negative obligation.

You mustn’t use my mobile.

**HAVE TO**
- is used with external obligation to describe obligations imposed on us by other people and authorities. The authority for the obligation doesn’t come from the person who is speaking. Perhaps the rule is a general law or obligation.

You have to wear uniform at school.
Choose the correct modal from those in brackets:

1. We (have to / can / mustn’t / should) eat in the classroom.
2. I (must / can / mustn’t / should) do my homework every day.
3. We (can’t / have to / mustn’t / should) do the exercise. It’s too difficult.
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Complete the sentences with the correct modal:

1. Before you step into the street, you _____ look right and left for traffic.
   a. can  b. must  c. would  d. shouldn’t
2. You _____ ride your bike on the pavement.
   a. can’t  b. can  c. wouldn’t  d. may
3. You _____ be listening to music while you’re studying.
   a. can  b. shouldn’t  c. must  d. may
4. You _____ keep your ears open for cars.
   a. should  b. must  c. wouldn’t  d. may
Answer Key:

A.
1. should
2. must

B.
1. Mustn’t
2. must
3. can’t
4. must

C.
1. must
2. can’t
3. shouldn’t
4. should