Preference and Probability Modals Exercises

▶ **Practice 15. Expressing preference: *would rather.*** (Chart 10-8)
Complete the sentences with a form of ***would rather*** and a verb from the list. Use the words in parentheses.

eat	go	have	sail	say	study

1. I know you want to know, but I (*not*) _____ anything more about this topic. I told Marge that I'd keep it a secret.

2. Last night, I _____ home right after dinner at the restaurant, but my friends insisted on going back to John's apartment to listen to some music and talk.

3. I _____ history and literature in college than study business as I did. I majored in business, and now that's all I know. I might never again have the opportunity to learn about history and literature.

4. If you insist, we'll go to the pizza place after the movie, but I (*not*) _____ _____ pizza again. I'm tired of it.

5. Do you think that young people _____ a choice about whom to marry, or do you think that they prefer their parents to choose a mate for them?

6. I like my work a lot, but my favorite thing is sailing. I love sailing. At this moment, even though I have just been promoted to vice-president of my company, I _____ right now instead of sitting here in my office.

PRACTICE 15, p. 104
1. would rather not say
2. would rather have gone
3. would rather have studied
4. would rather not eat
5. would rather have
6. would rather be sailing

► **Practice 1. Degrees of certainty: *must* and *may / might / could*.** (Chart 10-1)
How certain is the speaker when making each of the following remarks? Check the appropriate box.

	100%	About 95%	About 50% or less
1. Charlotte might be home by now.			
2. Phil must be home now.			
3. Mr. Brown's at home now.			
4. Lilly must know the answer to this question.			
5. Fred might have the answer.			
6. Shelley knows the answer.			
7. Those people must have a lot of money.			
8. You may remember me from high school.			
9. We could be related!			
10. Traffic might be heavy on the interstate.			

► **Practice 2. Degrees of certainty: *must* and *may / might / could*.** (Chart 10-1)
Circle the letter of the correct word to complete each sentence. In some sentences, both are correct.

1. A: Drive slowly! This is a school zone. Children are crossing the street here.

   B: It _____ be three o'clock. That's the time that school is out.

       a. must   b. might

2. A: Professor McKeon says that we're going to have a very high inflation rate next year.

   B: He _____ be right. He knows more about economics than anyone I know.

       a. must   b. could

3. A: Have you heard anything from Ed? Is he still on safari in Africa?

   B: He _____ be, or he _____ already be on his way home. I'm just not sure.

       a. must . . . must   b. may . . . may

4. A: Is that a famous celebrity over there in the middle of that crowd?

    B: It _____ be. She's signing autographs.

        a. must   b. might

5. A: Isn't Peter Reeves a banker?

    B: Yes. Why don't you talk to him? He _____ be able to help you with your loan.

        a. must   b. may

6. A: Is Margaret's daughter sixteen yet?

    B: She _____ be. I saw her driving a car, and you have to be at least sixteen to get a driver's license.

        a. must   b. might

7. A: Overall, don't you think the possibility of world peace is greater now than ever before?

    B: It _____ be. I don't know. Political relationships can be fragile.

        a. must   b. may

8. A: What's the matter with my son, doctor? Why does he cough and sneeze every day?

    B: He's allergic to something. It _____ dust in the house, or certain foods, or pollen in the air, or something else. It's hard to know, so we'll do some tests to find out.

        a. must be   b. may be

9. A: The speedometer on my car is broken. Do you think I'm driving over the speed limit?

    B: I can't tell. It doesn't seem like it, but you _____ .

        a. must be   b. could be

10. A: You've been on the go all day. Aren't you exhausted?

    B: Yes, I _____ . I can't remember when I've ever been this worn out.

        a. am   b. must be

11. A: I thought this movie was a comedy!

    B: Me too, but it _____ sad. Look at the people leaving the theater. A lot of them are crying.

        a. might be   b. must be

12. A: How old do you think Roger is?

    B: I just saw his driver's license. He _____ 33.

        a. could be   b. is

▶ **Practice 3. Degrees of certainty: present time negative.** (Chart 10-2)
Complete the sentences with the correct phrase from the list. Write the letter of the phrase.

    a. can't be him   d. may not speak
    b. can't be true   e. must not get
    c. may not be   f. must not like

1. A: I can't hear the singers! That man sitting behind us is snoring in his sleep!

    B: I hear him! He _____ opera.

2. A: Look! Isn't that our history professor over there? In the yellow sweater!

   B: No, that _____. He's in Tokyo this week, giving a presentation.

3. A: This coffee doesn't taste very good. It's supposed to be 100 percent Arabica.

   B: It _____ 100 percent Arabica. Maybe they mixed it with something else. Maybe it's a blend.

4. A: Who is that woman standing alone over there? She isn't talking to anyone.

   B: Well, she _____ any English. Or maybe she's very shy. Anyway, let's go over and try to talk to her.

5. A: Jane has been accepted at Harvard, I heard.

   B: No way! That _____. She isn't even a good student.

6. A: Did you see the new pickup truck that Mario's driving?

   B: I sure did. It's very big. It _____ good gas mileage.

PRACTICE 1, p. 95

	100%	About 95%	About 50% or less
1.			✓
2.		✓	
3.	✓		
4.		✓	
5.			✓
6.	✓		
7.		✓	
8.			✓
9.			✓
10.			✓

PRACTICE 2, p. 95

1. a. must
2. b. could
3. b. may . . . may
4. a. must
5. b. may
6. a. must
7. b. may
8. b. may be
9. b. could be
10. a. am
11. b. must be
12. b. is

PRACTICE 3, p. 96

1. f. must not like
2. a. can't be him
3. c. may not be
4. d. may not speak
5. b. can't be true
6. e. must not get