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Marginal Modals: Dare, Need, and Ought To

Hard | C1 | Advanced | Auxiliary verb | Infinitive | Inversion | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Questions | Verb | Perfect tense

1. Complete the secret agent's rather embarrassing mission debriefing. Select the best phrase for each gap.

I brought twenty exploding laser pens, though I _____ so many, as the guards were already asleep. I was so terrified of the villain's fluffy white cat that I _____ pet it! In hindsight, I _____ handed over my secret ID badge when the villain politely asked for it.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) needn't have packed
B) didn't need packing
C) needn't to pack

Blank 2

A) dared not
B) dared not to
C) didn't dared

Blank 3

A) ought not to have
B) ought not have
C) didn't ought to have

2. Complete the royal gossip's diary entry about the terrifying new Queen.

Choose ALL the grammatically correct ways to state that the palace staff are too afraid to make eye contact with her.

Select all that apply.

A) The servants dare not look her in the eye.
B) The servants do not dare to look her in the eye.
C) The servants do not dare look her in the eye.
D) The servants dare not to look her in the eye.
E) The servants dares not look her in the eye.

3. Choose the correct phrase to complete the knight's nervous confession.

Sir Reginald lost the Royal Broadsword in the swamp, and he _____ the King, for His Majesty has a notorious temper.

Select one.

A) dares not to tell
B) doesn't dare telling
C) dare not tell
D) daren't to tell

4. Complete the dramatic amateur chef's kitchen confession by choosing the correct phrase for each blank.

I bought three extra cartons of eggs, but I _____ because the guests brought their own dessert! Now the fridge is so overstuffed that I _____ the door, lest an avalanche of dairy crush me.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) needn't have bothered
B) needn't to bother
C) needn't had bothered

Blank 2

- **A)** dare not open
- **B)** dare not to open
- **C)** daring not open

5. Complete the party host's slightly exasperated text message.

You really _____ all these expensive appetizers, Harold! The catering company had already set up a massive buffet before you even arrived.

Select one.

- **A)** needn't have brought
- **B)** needn't to bring
- **C)** didn't need bringing
- **D)** haven't needed to bring

6. Help the indignant Victorian ghost complain about the new homeowners by choosing the correct phrase for each gap in her diary entry.

How _____ the parlor in such a ghastly shade of neon pink! They really _____ me first, seeing as I have been haunting this estate for over a century.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** dare they paint
- **B)** dare they to paint
- **C)** dare them paint

Blank 2

- **A)** ought to have consulted
- **B)** ought have consulted
- **C)** ought to had consulted

7. Help the eccentric theater director finalize his dramatic notes for the cast and crew. Select the correct option for each blank.

The lead actor _____ memorize the entire script by tomorrow; we are only rehearsing Act I. As for the understudy, she _____ question my artistic vision during the performance! Furthermore, the stage manager _____ warned me about the wobbly chandelier before I stood directly beneath it!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** needn't
- **B)** doesn't need
- **C)** needs not

Blank 2

- **A)** dare not
- **B)** dares not
- **C)** don't dare

Blank 3

- **A)** ought to have
- **B)** ought have
- **C)** ought to

8. Select the grammatically correct phrase to complete the mad scientist's diary entry.

Looking at the giant, radioactive hamsters currently destroying the city, I realize that I _____ the growth serum with my morning espresso.

Select one.

- **A)** didn't ought to have mixed
- **B)** ought not to mix
- **C)** ought not to have mixed
- **D)** hadn't ought to mix

9. Help the overly prepared bank robbers review their successful (but ridiculously over-equipped) heist.

Select ALL the sentences that grammatically and logically express that bringing the heavy laser cutter was unnecessary.

Select all that apply.

A) We needn't have brought the laser cutter.
B) We didn't need to bring the laser cutter.
C) We didn't need bringing the laser cutter.
D) We needn't to have brought the laser cutter.
E) We need not to bring the laser cutter.

10. Three Victorian ghosts are arguing about proper haunting etiquette.

Select ALL the sentences where their use of the marginal modal "ought" is grammatically correct.

Select all that apply.

A) Ought we to rattle the chains before or after midnight?
B) You ought not to wail so loudly when the master is sleeping.
C) You didn't ought to wail so loudly.
D) We ought rattle the chains now.
E) Do we ought to rattle the chains?