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Reporting with Modals

Hard | C1 | Advanced | Future tense | Indirect speech | Infinitive | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Questions | Verb | Verb tense | Perfect tense

1. Complete the office gossips' dramatic retelling of the CEO's disastrous hot-mic incident. Choose the correct verb phrase to complete each piece of reported speech.

(Direct speech: "You should have warned me about the microphone!" / "I must resign by Friday." / "I may move to a desert island.")

The CEO bitterly complained that the tech team _____ him that the microphone was still on. He then dramatically announced that he _____ by Friday to save face. Finally, he muttered that he _____ to a desert island to escape the embarrassment.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** should have warned
- **B)** had to warn
- **C)** would warn

Blank 2

- **A)** had to resign
- **B)** must have resigned
- **C)** should resign

Blank 3

- **A)** might move
- **B)** may have moved
- **C)** would move

2. Complete the polite vampire's diary entry by selecting the grammatically correct phrase.

I felt terribly guilty when I arrived at Count Vlad's castle carrying three extra velvet capes as a gift. He warmly assured me that I _____ them, as his closet was already bursting with capes.

Select one.

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

3. Help the detective finalize her report by selecting ALL the grammatically correct ways to report the clumsy art thief's words.

Direct speech: "Where shall we stash the stolen painting? It must be kept away from sunlight!"

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The thief asked his accomplice where they should stash the stolen painting, emphasizing that it had to be kept away from sunlight.
- **B)** The thief asked his accomplice where they should stash the stolen painting, emphasizing that it must be kept away from sunlight.
- **C)** The thief asked his accomplice where they shall stash the stolen painting, emphasizing that it must be kept away from sunlight.
- **D)** The thief asked his accomplice where they should stash the stolen painting, emphasizing that it must have been kept away from sunlight.

4. Help the bewildered scientist complete his incident report by choosing the correct modal verb.

When the experiment started glowing neon pink and vibrating violently, Dr. Aris panicked. He called his supervisor immediately and asked what he _____ do with the radioactive beaker.

Select one.

A) shall
B) would
C) should
D) will

5. Read the hacker's boast and select ALL the grammatically correct ways the journalist could report it the next day.

(Assume the hacker's abilities and the system's security are still true at the time of reporting.)

Direct speech: "I can bypass the firewall, but it will trigger an alarm."

Select all that apply.

A) The hacker claimed that she could bypass the firewall, but it would trigger an alarm.
B) The hacker claimed that she can bypass the firewall, but it will trigger an alarm.
C) The hacker claimed that she could have bypassed the firewall, but it would have triggered an alarm.
D) The hacker claimed that she is able to bypass the firewall, but it will have triggered an alarm.

6. Help the new zookeeper correctly remember the head keeper's strict instructions.

The head keeper was absolutely clear about the rules for the magical creatures enclosure. She strictly warned us that we _____ feed the invisible badgers after sunset.

Select one.

A) hadn't to
B) didn't have to
C) must not
D) wouldn't have to

7. Help Detective Paws finalize his official report about the notorious cat burglar's interrogation. Choose the correct reported verb phrase to match each of the suspect's original statements.

(Direct speech: "I must have dropped the tuna." / "Shall I show you the paw prints?" / "I needn't explain myself.")

The suspect admitted that he _____ the tuna at the crime scene. Then, he cheekily asked if he _____ me the paw prints on the vault. Finally, he haughtily declared that he _____ himself to a mere dog.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) must have dropped
B) had to drop
C) would drop

Blank 2
A) should show
B) would show
C) must show

Blank 3
A) didn't have to explain
B) needn't have explained
C) shouldn't explain

8. The Earth Defense Force is translating an alien broadcast. Select ALL the grammatically correct ways to report the alien's threat regarding a future obligation.

Direct speech: "You must evacuate the planet tomorrow!"

Select all that apply.

A) The alien commander stated that we had to evacuate the planet the following day.
B) The alien commander stated that we would have to evacuate the planet the following day.
C) The alien commander stated that we must evacuate the planet the next day.
D) The alien commander stated that we must have evacuated the planet the following day.
E) The alien commander stated that we had had to evacuate the planet the next day.

9. Complete the HR manager's confidential memo about a rather bizarre employee interview. Select the grammatically correct reported modal for each gap.

When questioned about the missing donuts, Bob insisted that he _____ at his desk during the incident. He added that we _____ further, and promised he _____ a new box the following day.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) had to be
B) must have been
C) had to have been

Blank 2

A) mustn't investigate
B) didn't have to investigate
C) needn't have investigated

Blank 3

A) should bring
B) would bring
C) will have brought

10. Help the spaceship captain finish his official log regarding a disastrous engineering failure. Choose the correct reported modal phrases for each gap.

The chief engineer admitted that he _____ a slight miscalculation. He panicked, screaming that the reactor _____ at any minute, and insisted that we _____ the sector immediately.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) might make
B) might have made
C) may be making

Blank 2

A) can explode
B) could explode
C) could have exploded

Blank 3

A) must have evacuated
B) had to evacuate
C) have to evacuate