Modal Verbs for Obligation, Prohibition and Permission — A1

CEFR Level A1 | 3 Worksheets: Must and Mustn't • Can and Can't • Reading and Writing | Answer Key Included

Worksheet 1: Must and Mustn't — Rules

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Reference: Yes, Do It! / No, Stop!

We use **must** and **mustn't** for rules. A rule is important.

Word	Meaning	Example
must	Do it! It is a rule.	You **must** wear a helmet on a bike.
mustn't	Don't do it! It is a rule.	You **mustn't** run near the swimming pool.

Important: after must and mustn't, use the simple verb.

✓ You must **stop**. ✗ You must **to stop**.

✓ He must **go** now. ✗ He must **goes** now.

Remember: *must* is the same for I, you, he, she, we, they. It never changes!

Exercise A: Must or Mustn't?

Look at the sign. Circle the correct word.

1. NO SMOKING → You **must** / **mustn't** smoke here.
2. STOP → Cars **must** / **mustn't** stop.
3. NO PHOTOS → You **must** / **mustn't** take photos.
4. WASH YOUR HANDS → You **must** / **mustn't** wash your hands.
5. NO DOGS → Dogs **must** / **mustn't** come in.
6. QUIET PLEASE → You **must** / **mustn't** be quiet.

Exercise B: School Rules

Write must or mustn't.

#	Rule
1	You _____ be here at 8 o'clock.
2	You _____ eat in the classroom.
3	You _____ do your homework.
4	You _____ use your phone in the lesson.
5	You _____ listen to the teacher.
6	You _____ shout in the library.
7	You _____ wear a uniform.
8	You _____ be late.

Exercise C: Find the Mistake

Write the sentence correctly.

1. "You must to stop here."

   → _____

2. "He must goes to school."

→ _____

3. "You not must smoke."

→ _____

4. "She musts wear a hat."

→ _____

Score: _____ / 15

Worksheet 2: Can and Can't — OK or Not OK?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Reference: Asking and Saying OK

We use **can** to say something is OK. We use **can't** to say it is not OK.

Word	Meaning	Example
can	It is OK. Yes.	You **can** sit here. This chair is free.
can't	It is not OK. No.	You **can't** park here. It is for buses.
Can I…?	Asking: is it OK?	**Can I** open the window, please?

Answers: "Can I sit here?" → "Yes, you can." / "No, you can't. Sorry."

Exercise A: Can or Can't?

#	Sentence
1	It is a library. You _____ talk loudly.
2	The park is open. We _____ play football here.
3	This is my house. You _____ come in!
4	The museum is closed today. We _____ go in.
5	It is a red light. Cars _____ go.
6	The water is clean. You _____ drink it.

Exercise B: Ask the Question

Write a question with Can I…?

#	You want to…	Your question
1	open the window	_____ ?
2	use your pen	_____ ?
3	go to the toilet	_____ ?
4	sit here	_____ ?
5	have some water	_____ ?

Exercise C: Where Are You?

Match the rule (1–5) with the place (a–e).

#	Rule	Letter	Place
1	You must be quiet. You can't eat.	____	a. a swimming pool
2	You can't run. You must wear a swimsuit.	____	b. a library
3	You must stop at a red light.	____	c. an aeroplane
4	You mustn't use your phone. You must sit down.	____	d. a hospital
5	You must be quiet. You can visit at 3 o'clock.	____	e. a road

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 3: Reading and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A1 (CEFR)

Part A – Read the Text

Read about the swimming pool. Then answer the questions.

Welcome to Blue Water Pool! Here are our rules. You must have a shower before you swim. You must wear a swimsuit. Children can swim, but a mother or father must come too. You mustn't run — the floor is wet! You mustn't bring food to the pool, but you can eat in the café. You can't swim after 8 o'clock, because the pool closes.

1. What must you do before you swim?

_____

2. What mustn't you do at the pool? Write two things.

_____

3. Where can you eat?

_____

4. Can you swim at 9 o'clock? Why / why not?

_____

Part B – Complete the Conversation

Write must, mustn't, can or can't.

Speaker	What they say
LUCA	(1) _____ I bring my dog to the park?
ZOE	Yes, you (2) _____ . But he (3) _____ run near the small children.
LUCA	OK. (4) _____ I give him some water here?
ZOE	Yes, of course. But you (5) _____ put the bottle in the bin after.

Part C – Write

Write **five rules** for your classroom. Use **must**, **mustn't**, **can** and **can't**.

Example: You must listen to the teacher.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 15

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A1 Level Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – Exercise A (Signs)

1	2	3	4	5	6
mustn't	must	mustn't	must	mustn't	must

Worksheet 1 – Exercise B (School Rules)

#	Answer	#	Answer
1	must	5	must
2	mustn't	6	mustn't
3	must	7	must
4	mustn't	8	mustn't

Worksheet 1 – Exercise C (Mistakes)

#	Mistake	Correct sentence & rule
1	must to stop	**You must stop here.** — No "to" after must.
2	must goes	**He must go to school.** — No -s after must.
3	not must smoke	**You mustn't smoke.** — The word order is must + not.
4	musts wear	**She must wear a hat.** — Must never changes. No -s.

Worksheet 2 – Exercise A

1	2	3	4	5	6
can't	can	can	can't	can't	can

Worksheet 2 – Exercise B (Questions)

#	Model answer
1	Can I open the window, please?
2	Can I use your pen, please?
3	Can I go to the toilet, please?
4	Can I sit here, please?
5	Can I have some water, please?

Accept answers without "please", but praise learners who include it — politeness is part of the function.

Worksheet 2 – Exercise C (Matching)

1	2	3	4	5
b	a	e	c	d

Worksheet 3 – Part A (Reading)

#	Answer
1	You must have a shower. (Also accept: you must wear a swimsuit.)
2	You mustn't run. You mustn't bring food to the pool.

#	Answer
3	In the café.
4	No. Because the pool closes at 8 o'clock.

Worksheet 3 – Part B (Conversation)

#	Answer	Why
1	Can	Asking if it is OK.
2	can	The answer is yes, it is OK.
3	mustn't	This is a rule — it is important.
4	Can	Asking if it is OK.
5	must	A rule about the bottle.

Marking Guide — Writing (Worksheet 3 Part C)

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Modals	Uses must, mustn't, can and can't	0–3
Form	Simple verb after the modal (no "to", no -s)	0–3
Meaning	Sensible classroom rules	0–2

Teacher Notes — A1

- **Four words only.** Must, mustn't, can, can't. Do not introduce *have to* at A1 — the must/have to distinction is a B1 problem and adds nothing here. *Should* also waits.
- **"Mustn't" is not "don't have to".** Learners will meet *don't have to* at A2 and immediately confuse the two. Pre-empt it: at A1, *mustn't* = a red sign with a line through it. Keep the image.
- **The form is the lesson.** "You must to stop" and "He musts go" are the two errors to drill. Must never changes and never takes "to".
- **Can does double duty** — ability ("I can swim") and permission ("Can I swim?"). At A1 this is a feature, not a problem: don't separate them unless learners ask.
- **Good classroom activity:** bring real signs or draw them. Learners produce the rule aloud: "No dogs!" → "You mustn't bring dogs." Signs give the evidence, so the modal is never arbitrary.