Functions of Modal Verbs

1 Read the sentences below and choose the correct answer according to the function.

1. asks about ability?

- ☐ Can I see you now?
- ☐ Can you see me now?

2. indicates obligation?

- ☐ I must finish my homework.
- ☐ I can't finish my homework.

3. make a request?

- ☐ Could we have pizza for dinner?
- ☐ We could have pizza for dinner?

4. asks permission?

- ☐ May I have an appointment?
- ☐ I may have an appointment.

5, expresses ability?

- ☐ He could go to bed late if he wanted.
- ☐ He could use a computer when he was ten.

6. makes an offer?

- ☐ Can you help me?
- ☐ I can help you.

2 Match the sentences and their functions.

1, He looks very hungry. He should eat something.	●	● **a, prohibition**
2, Visitors mustn't touch the sculptures	●	● **b, certainty**
3, Could I possibly use your laptop?	●	● **c, advice**
4, He can't be wrong because he is an expert.	●	● **d, request**

• Answer

Functions of Modal Verbs

1 Read the sentences below and choose the correct answer according to the function.

1. asks about ability?

- [ ] Can I see you now?
- [x] Can you see me now?

2. indicates obligation?

- [x] I must finish my homework.
- [ ] I can't finish my homework.

3. make a request?

- [x] Could we have pizza for dinner?
- [ ] We could have pizza for dinner?

4. asks permission?

- [x] May I have an appointment?
- [ ] I may have an appointment.

5, expresses ability?

- [ ] He could go to bed late if he wanted.
- [x] He could use a computer when he was ten.

6. makes an offer?

- [ ] Can you help me?
- [x] I can help you.

2 Match the sentences and their functions.

1, He looks very hungry. He should eat something.	c, advice
2, Visitors mustn't touch the sculptures	a, prohibition
3, Could I possibly use your laptop?	d, request
4, He can't be wrong because he is an expert.	b, certainty