

Unit 11

Modal musical chairs

Preparation: Music and a way to play it. You'll also need a classroom that lets you arrange chairs into circles of 4-7.

Procedure:

1. Write these words (modal auxiliary verbs and “semi-modals”) on the board (or, better yet, elicit the “words that say what we must and must not do” for the students): *must, must not, should, should not, have to, don't have to, can, can't, don't*
2. Have student think of one true, interesting sentence for each word. **Note:** the time to think of sentences is very important since only one student says one sentence for each round of the “musical chair” game that follows. So this is the stage where the most language work is happening for everyone.
3. Play musical chairs. Students work in groups of 5-8. They stand in a circle around the chairs. There is one less chair than people in the group. Play a short bit of music. Stop the music. Students try to sit down in one of the chairs. The person in each group who does not get a chair says a sentence for one of the target words.
4. Continue. Each time, the person saying the sentence must say a sentence for word that has not been used yet.

Variation: Instead of using a different modal auxiliary verb, students must say a sentence with different content than sentences previously said.