Might or Must?

Sort what could happen from what is required.

4.L.1.c "Use auxiliary verbs to convey various conditions to clarify meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSSIBLE

The helping verb **might** tells what could happen. It does not say that it will happen.

Lena might paint a mural.

REQUIRED

The helping verb **must** tells what someone is required to do.

Drivers must stop at red lights.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POSSIBLE or REQUIRED for each numbered sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain how the helping verb helped you decide.

1. 1. A fox might cross the field tonight. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

2. 2. Rina might join the chess club. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

3. 3. The campers must stay on the marked trail. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

4. 4. Library books must go back by Friday. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

5. 5. We must wear helmets on the bike ride. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

6. 6. The rain might end before noon. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

7. 7. The players must sign in before practice. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

8. 8. You must keep the gate closed. POSSIBLE REQUIRED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with **might** to show possibility and one with **must** to show a requirement.

POSSIBLE _____

REQUIRED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one sentence you wrote, switch **might** and **must**, then explain in one sentence how its meaning changes.

ANSWER KEY

Might or Must?

GRADE 4 · 4.L.1.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. A fox might cross the field tonight.	**POSSIBLE**	Might shows that crossing the field could happen.
2	2. Rina might join the chess club.	**POSSIBLE**	Might shows that joining the club is possible.
3	3. The campers must stay on the marked trail.	**REQUIRED**	Must shows that staying on the trail is required.
4	4. Library books must go back by Friday.	**REQUIRED**	Must shows that returning the books is required.
5	5. We must wear helmets on the bike ride.	**REQUIRED**	Must shows that wearing helmets is required.
6	6. The rain might end before noon.	**POSSIBLE**	Might shows that the rain could end.
7	7. The players must sign in before practice.	**REQUIRED**	Must shows that signing in is required.
8	8. You must keep the gate closed.	**REQUIRED**	Must shows that keeping the gate closed is required.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **POSSIBLE**: Our team might bring water bottles.
- **REQUIRED**: Artists must clean their brushes.

Challenge: Our team must bring water bottles. Bringing water bottles is now required, not just possible.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect might to possibility or must to a requirement. For example, item 1 is possible because might says the fox could cross the field, while item 3 is required because must says the campers have to stay on the trail.