

8A The maze of terror

Overview of modal verbs



Card 1

You are on holiday in the southern states of the USA. You're driving through a very remote area late at night and are completely lost! You're looking for somewhere to stay, but have only seen one hotel, which was locked up. **(WHY?)** You have \$200 in cash and are tired and hungry. Finally, you come to a junction in the middle of nowhere.

Do you:

- turn left? **(Card 2)**
- turn right? **(Card 3)**

Card 2

Five miles further on you see a big hotel on your left. It's open! You stop and go inside, but the receptionist tells you the hotel is fully booked. A coachload of tourists have reserved all the rooms. However, it's very late and they still haven't arrived. **(WHY NOT?)**

Do you:

- go back to the junction and turn right? **(Card 3)**
- continue along the road? **(Card 4)**
- try to bribe the receptionist to give you a room? **(Card 5)**

Card 3

You drive for ten minutes, then see an old hotel down a narrow turning. There are a lot of cars in the car park, but you can't see any lights on in the bedrooms. **(WHY NOT?)** The receptionist offers you a room for \$85.

Do you:

- take the room? **(Card 6)**
- get back in the car and continue driving? **(Card 7)**

Card 4

You drive a bit further, but come to a sign in the middle of the road that says *ROAD CLOSED – EXTREME DANGER!* **(WHY?)**

Do you:

- go back to the junction and turn right? **(Card 3)**
- go back to the hotel and try to bribe the receptionist to give you a room? **(Card 5)**

Card 5

The receptionist takes your bribe and gives you the key to room 101. When you unlock the door, you see that the room is full of boxes of cigarettes – thousands of them! **(WHY?)** You go back to the receptionist to complain, but he pulls out a gun and tells you to get out.

Do you:

- go back to the junction and turn right? **(Card 3)**
- get back in the car and continue along the road? **(Card 4)**

Card 6

You leave your bags in the room and go to the restaurant – you're very hungry! There are no other guests in the restaurant. **(WHY NOT?)** You order some food and the waiter offers you free wine with your meal. The atmosphere in the empty restaurant is making you feel a little nervous.

Do you:

- wait for your meal to arrive? **(Card 8)**
- go back to your room without eating? **(Card 9)**

Card 7

You drive for a while and come to a nice-looking motel. Sitting at reception is a man wearing an old-fashioned army uniform. **(WHY?)** There are lots of candles everywhere and none of the lights are on. **(WHY NOT?)** He tells you there's only one room free – it costs \$80.

Do you:

- take the room? **(Card 12)**
- continue driving? **(Card 13)**

Card 8

Your meal arrives, along with two large glasses of red wine. You start eating, but the meat you ordered tastes terrible. **(WHY?)** Also, the wine doesn't taste like any wine you've ever tasted.

Do you:

- leave the food and go up to your room? **(Card 9)**
- complain to the waiter? **(Card 10)**

Card 9

You are now back in your room. You get undressed and try to go to sleep. However, in the next room you hear a woman scream and then a very loud noise. **(WHAT'S HAPPENED?)**

Do you:

- go and see what's going on next door? **(Card 11)**
- get back in your car and drive away? **(Card 7)**

Card 10

You make a complaint and are taken to see the chef. In the kitchen you notice a human finger on the floor. There's also a bag of toes under the table! **(WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?)** You run out of the building, chased by the chef waving a large knife! You get in your car and drive away.

Do you:

- go back to the junction and turn left? **(Card 2)**
- continue driving along the road you're on? **(Card 7)**

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Card 11

You go into the room next door and see a woman lying on the bed. She isn't moving. There's a man standing next to her wearing a tall white hat. **(WHO IS HE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?)** You turn and run out of the building, chased by the man. You get in your car just in time.

Do you:

- go back to the junction and turn left? **(Card 2)**
- continue driving along the road you're on? **(Card 7)**

Card 12

You go into the room, light the candles and look around. The room seems very clean and comfortable. You are just about to go to bed when a woman starts banging loudly on your door and asking you to help her. **(WHY?)**

Do you:

- open the door? **(Card 14)**
- pretend you can't hear her and hope she goes away? **(Card 15)**

Card 13

You continue driving and see an old man sitting at the side of the road. You get out of the car to ask if he knows a hotel nearby. His clothes are torn and his head is bleeding. He looks very frightened. **(WHY?)**

Do you:

- try and help him? **(Card 20)**
- get back in the car and leave? **(Card 22)**

Card 14

You open the door and let her in. She tells you her name is Sally and her boyfriend is looking for her. If he finds her, he's going to kill her! **(WHY?)** She wants you to drive her away from the motel immediately.

Do you:

- tell her to go away? **(Card 16)**
- help her by driving her away from the motel? **(Card 17)**

Card 15

She kicks down your door and comes in anyway! She tells you her name is Sally and her boyfriend is looking for her. If he finds her, he's going to kill her! **(WHY?)** She wants you to drive her away from the motel immediately.

Do you:

- tell her to go away? **(Card 16)**
- help her by driving her away from the motel? **(Card 17)**

Card 16

Sally pulls out a gun and tells you to get in your car – now! This time you don't argue! You drive for half an hour, then she tells you to stop. She gives you \$1,000, then runs off. **(WHERE DID SHE GET THE MONEY FROM?)** By now you're extremely tired.

Do you:

- go back to the motel? **(Card 18)**
- continue driving? **(Card 13)**
- go to sleep in the car? **(Card 19)**

Card 17

You get in the car and drive off, with Sally in the back seat. You continue driving for half an hour, then she tells you to stop the car. She gives you \$1,000, then runs off. **(WHERE DID SHE GET THE MONEY FROM?)** By now you're extremely tired.

Do you:

- go back to the motel? **(Card 18)**
- continue driving? **(Card 13)**
- go to sleep in the car? **(Card 19)**

Card 18

You go back to the motel, but the door to your room is locked from the inside. **(WHY?)** You can't find the man in the army uniform anywhere. **(WHERE HAS HE GONE?)**

Do you:

- continue driving? **(Card 13)**
- go to sleep in the car? **(Card 19)**

Card 19

You go to sleep in the car, but then a loud noise and a bright light wake you up. When the light disappears, there is an old man standing in front of your car, looking confused and frightened. **(WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?)** He knocks on your window.

Do you:

- try to help him? **(Card 20)**
- drive off immediately? **(Card 13)**

Card 20

The old man says he's been on an alien spaceship for three days. **(WHAT DO YOU THINK?)** He also says he lives in the next town and if you give him a lift you can stay the night in his house.

Do you:

- give him a lift? **(Card 21)**
- leave him there and drive off? **(Card 22)**

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Card 21

You drive off with the man in the back seat. He says he used to work for the government, but he can't tell you what he did. **(WHY NOT?)** When you get to the next town, he invites you to stay in his house. He says there are no hotels in the town.

Do you:

- accept his offer and stay with him? **(Card 23)**
- look around the town yourself? **(Card 24)**

Card 22

Before you can leave, he collapses, so you carry him to your car. He says he used to work for the government, but he can't tell you what he did. **(WHY NOT?)** When you arrive at the town, he invites you to stay in his house. He says there are no hotels in the town.

Do you:

- accept his offer and stay with him? **(Card 23)**
- look around the town yourself? **(Card 24)**

Card 23

You drive up to his house and you have to climb in through the window. **(WHY?)** You're extremely tired, so he shows you to your bedroom. You get lost and open the wrong door. The room is full of guns and other weapons! **(WHY?)**

Do you:

- drive away from the house immediately? **(Card 24)**
- go back to your room and go to sleep **(Card 25)**

Card 24

You drive round the town and discover that there is a hotel. The receptionist is wearing a Mickey Mouse costume! **(WHY?)** The hotel looks very luxurious, but the rooms only cost \$100.

Do you:

- stay in the hotel? **(Card 26)**
- continue driving? **(Card 27)**

Card 25

While you are asleep, the army surround the house. You are arrested for terrorism – the man used to work for the FBI, but is now fighting against the American government. You spend the next three weeks in prison trying to convince everyone that you're innocent! You have reached the end of the maze.

Now go back through the cards and discuss with your partner(s) the decisions you made.

Card 26

You go into your room – it's beautiful! You are just about to go to bed when you open a cupboard to get an extra pillow. Inside is a man – and he's dead! **(WHEN DID HE DIE?)**

Do you:

- close the cupboard and go to sleep? **(Card 28)**
- leave the hotel quietly and get back in your car? **(Card 27)**

Card 27

You drive out of the town and see an old man hitch-hiking at the side of the road. He looks very dirty and untidy, and is standing next to two large suitcases. **(HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN TRAVELLING?)**

Do you:

- give him a lift? **(Card 29)**
- keep driving? **(Card 30)**

Card 28

In the middle of the night the police arrive and search the room. They find the body and arrest you on suspicion of murder! You are taken to the police station and spend two nights in the cells before you can prove your innocence. You have reached the end of the maze.

Now go back through the cards and discuss with your partner(s) the decisions you made.

Card 29

You give the old man a lift to his house – it's the biggest house you've ever seen! The old man tells you he's a millionaire and because you've been so kind to him, he invites you in. You spend the rest of the holiday as his guest and have the time of your life! You have reached the end of the maze.

Now go back through the cards and discuss with your partner(s) the decisions you made.

Card 30

20 minutes later you run out of petrol! You are a long way from the nearest town and it's 3 a.m. You decide to go to sleep in the car and have a very cold and uncomfortable night. In the morning you have to walk for three hours to find some petrol! You have reached the end of the maze.

Now go back through the cards and discuss with your partner(s) the decisions you made.

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Instructions

You will need: one set of cards per group of three students (colour-coded if possible)

- Pre-teach any difficult vocabulary.
- Divide students into groups of three. Explain that they are on holiday together in the USA. Tell them that the aim is for them to get out of the maze by finding somewhere to spend the night.
- Give each group Card 1 and explain that every time they see a question in capitals, they must make deductions about the situation using modal verbs in the present or past. For example, for Card 1, students might say: *The owner might have gone away* or *There can't be many tourists visiting this area*. Students then decide amongst themselves which card they want next.
- Students continue through the maze, making deductions from the prompts and discussing the options at the bottom of each card. The teacher moves around the room giving out cards. Make sure you keep the cards for each group separate.
- When a group reaches the end of the maze, ask them to go through the cards again in order. Encourage them to evaluate their own decisions (using *should(n't) have* and third conditional sentences) and discuss the options they didn't take (using *could have* and third conditional sentences).
- Groups report back to the whole class.