

At what age can you ...?

Modals: can / can't / must / are allowed to / need to

Name _____ Date _____

A. What do you think?

Read the sentences. Are they true or false? Circle what you think.

1. In England, children can leave school when they are 15.

True / False

2. You can vote when you are 16.

True / False

3. If your name is not on the electoral register, you can't vote.

True / False

4. In the UK, you can get married when you are 16.

True / False

5. You can drive a car when you are 16.

True / False

6. In the UK, children can get a part-time job when they are 14.

True / False

7. Everyone in the UK under 18 must be in education or training.

True / False

B. Talk to your partner. Did you put the same answers?

C. Now find the answers in the text. Were you right?

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At what age can you...?



<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-style-photocard-driving-licence>

At what age can you get a job? In every country we can only do some things, like getting married or driving a car, when we get to a certain age. If you are under this age it is not legal (it is against the law). So, how old do you have to be in the UK?

At what age can you leave school?

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland young people can leave school if they are 16 or over.

The school leaving age in England changed in 2013. Now, every child has to stay in education or training until they are 18.

This does not mean all children will have to stay in the classroom. If young people don't want to stay in full time education at a school or college, they can do an **apprenticeship**, or they can get a full time job (over 20 hours a week) but they must also **attend** part time education or training at the same time.

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At what age can you vote?

You can vote in elections when you are 18. You can register to vote from 16, but you have to wait until you are 18 to use your vote.

If you are a British, Irish, EU or **Commonwealth** citizen and you want to vote, you must fill in the form to put your name on the **electoral register**. You can't vote unless your name is on the electoral register.

At what age can you get married?

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland you can get married when you are 16, but if you are under 18 your parents or **guardians** must give their **consent**. In Scotland you don't need your parents' consent if you are under 18.

At what age can you drive a car?

In the UK, you can get a **provisional** driving licence when you are 17. When you pass your driving test you will get a **full** driving licence. While you are learning to drive you must always have another person with you in the car. This person must be 21 or over, and must have had a full driving licence for at least 3 years. You can't drive **by yourself** unless you have a full driving licence.

At what age can you get a job?

You are allowed to work for up to 2 hours on Sundays and school days when you are 14, and up to 5 hours on Saturday or in the school holidays. When you are 15 you can work up to 8 hours on Saturdays and other days when you are not at school.

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Read the examples below and underline these words:

can | are allowed to | can't | aren't allowed to | must | have to

(The first one has been done for you)

It's OK:

You can buy alcohol if you are over 18.

You are allowed to buy alcohol if you are over 18.

It's not OK:

You can't buy alcohol if you are under 18.

You aren't allowed to buy alcohol if you are under 18.

It's necessary:

Your parents must give their consent.

Your parents have to give their consent.

Write the missing words in the gaps.

aren't allowed | must | can | don't need | can't | have to | are allowed

1. In Scotland, Wales and *Northern* Ireland children _____ leave school when they are 16.
2. Children who are 15 _____ to work up to 8 hours on Saturdays.
3. If you are 16 or 17 you _____ have your parents' consent to get married.
4. If your name isn't on the electoral register you _____ to vote.
5. If you are under 18 you _____ buy alcohol in a pub.
6. To put your name on the electoral register you _____ fill in a form.

Which phrase did you not use? _____

Can you find it in the text?

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Find these words in the text. Write the phrase or sentence (from the text).

Use a dictionary to check the meaning. Then write one of these:

a definition | a word with a similar meaning | an example sentence | a translation.

1	apprenticeship	<i>they can do an apprenticeship</i>
		<i>On an apprenticeship, you work and train at the same time.</i>
		<i>Example: He did an apprenticeship in construction.</i>
2	attend	
3	Commonwealth	
4	electoral register	
5	guardians	
6	consent	
7	provisional	
8	full	
9	by yourself	

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Read the examples. Underline these words: if / unless

If

You can vote if you are over 18.

If your name is on the electoral register, you can vote.

Unless

You can't vote unless your name is on the electoral register.

You can't get married under the age of 18 unless you have your parents' consent.

If or unless? Fill the gaps.

1. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland ___ you are 16, you can leave school.
2. ___ a child is 15, s/he can work for 8 hours on Saturdays.
3. ___ you are 16 or 17 you must have your parents' consent to get married.
4. You can't vote _____ your name is on the electoral register.
5. You can't vote _____ you are 18 or over.
6. ___ you want your name on the electoral register, you have to fill in a form.
7. You can't drive _____ you have a driving licence.

Your turn.

1. _____

2. _____

Check your writing with a partner. Did you use "if" or "unless"?

Did you use "can" or "can't"? Did you use "you" meaning "everybody"?

What have you learned today about age and the law in the UK?

Write down new facts or new words here:
