

What are Vouloir, Devoir, and Pouvoir?

Worksheet

Vouloir means 'to want', devoir means 'must/have to', and pouvoir means 'can/to be able'. Each combines with an infinitive: 'Je veux aller' (I want to go).

Questions

1. 'I want to go to Paris' in French?
A) Je veux aller à Paris
B) Je dois aller à Paris
C) Je peux aller à Paris
D) Je vais vouloir Paris
2. Complete: 'Je ____ travailler' (I must work)
A) veux
B) peux
C) dois
D) aller
3. Which verb means 'can' or 'to be able'?
A) Vouloir
B) Devoir
C) Pouvoir
D) Faire
4. What form follows a modal verb?
A) Past participle
B) Infinitive
C) Conditional
D) Subjunctive
5. Express: You want to drink coffee.
6. Express: You must study French.
7. Express: You can speak English.
8. Define: What does 'vouloir' mean?
9. Define: What does 'devoir' mean?
10. Define: What does 'pouvoir' mean?

Answer Key

1. A) Je veux aller à Paris — 'Vouloir' (want) is the right modal. The infinitive 'aller' follows.
2. C) dois — 'Devoir' means 'must', expressing obligation.
3. C) Pouvoir — 'Pouvoir' expresses ability or possibility.
4. B) Infinitive — Modal verbs always pair with an infinitive.
5. Subject: Je Modal: veux (want) Infinitive: boire (drink) Sentence: Je veux boire du café
6. Subject: Je Modal: dois (must) Infinitive: étudier (study) Sentence: Je dois étudier le français
7. Subject: Je Modal: peux (can) Infinitive: parler (speak) Sentence: Je peux parler anglais
8. 'Vouloir' means 'to want'. Je veux = I want
9. 'Devoir' means 'must' or 'have to'. Je dois = I must
10. 'Pouvoir' means 'can' or 'to be able'. Je peux = I can

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