Modals Worksheet

Modal verbs have various functions, some essential ones of which are listed below. Reading the sample sentences, classify the underlined modals according to their functions:

possibility certainty deduction	: :
obligation permission necessity lack of obligation	: : :
advice expectation preference	:
requests offers & invitations	:
habitual past actions ability typical behaviour	: :

- 1. You should bring some warm clothing. It may snow while we're up there.
- 2. You had better not turn down his proposal.
- 3. Harry would do a thing like that! I've known him for years.
- 4. He would sometimes get out of control, don't you remember?
- 5. Ben has studied enough, so he should pass the advanced driving test tomorrow.
- 6. Could you tell me the time?
- 7. I would rather lick an ashtray than kiss a smoker.
- 8. You <u>mustn't</u> forget to post the letters or the boss <u>will</u> surely go crazy.
- 9. I <u>needn't</u> get the drinks ready because we <u>might not</u> have the party tomorrow.
- 10. No one but Tom was able to swim across the lake.
- 11. What's that noise? Could it be a cat on the roof?
- 12. At one time people <u>used to</u> walk long distances on foot but now we <u>need to</u> take a taxi or something when we <u>have to</u> travel even the shortest distances.
- 13. My brother <u>could</u> play the violin with expert skill when he was a child.
- 14. Will you please try not to raise your voice? The baby is asleep.
- 15. She must be out of the town at the moment. No one has seen her nowadays.
- 16. Would you like to spend the night in my flat?
- 17. You must watch every step of yours while crossing a mine field.
- 18. We don't need to be told what's to be done.