

# MODAL VERBS

**Be to...**  
Предстоит

**Be obliged to...**  
Быть  
обязанным

**Ought to...**  
Следует  
(долг)

**Be able to...**  
Быть способным  
сделать

**May**  
Можно

**Must**  
Обязан

**Dare**  
Осмелиться

**Have to...**  
Приходится

**Can**  
Уметь,  
мочь

**Shall**  
Намерение

**Be allowed to...**  
Разрешить,  
позволить

**Should**  
Следует  
(совет)

**Needn't**  
Нет  
необходимости



# Modal verbs

They have the same form in all persons.

They come before the subject in questions and take "not" after them in negations.

They take an infinitive without "to" after them.

Can she sing? No, she **can't** sing but she **can** dance.



Can is used to express ability in the present or to ask permission.

Could is used to express ability in the past, polite requests or to ask permission politely.

She **can** type. (ability in the present)

**Can** I borrow your pen? (asking permission)

He **could** run fast when he was 17. (ability in the past)

**Could** I have some tea? (polite request)

**Could** I leave early, please? (asking permission)



**Must** and **have to** are used to express necessity or obligation.

**"Have to"** means that sb else decides.  
**"Must"** means that I decide.

He **had to** leave early. Did she **have to** leave early, too?  
She **doesn't have to** finish it now. She **has to** finish it by Monday.

It's raining. I **must** take my umbrella. (necessity)  
I **must** do my homework. (obligation)  
He **has to** go to hospital. (necessity)

Soldiers **have to** wear a uniform.  
I **must** work till late tonight.



**"Must"**

**"Have to/has to"**  
("don't/doesn't have to")

Present tense

**"Had to"**  
("didn't have to")

Past tense



Must expresses obligation or necessity.

Mustn't expresses prohibition.

Needn't expresses no necessity.

You **must** tell the truth.

You **mustn't** drive fast.

There's enough bread. You **needn't** buy any.



**Shall we** go to the cinema tonight?  
Try harder or **you'll** fail your exams.  
**Would you** carry my suitcase?  
**Would you like** to come with me to the party?

**Shall** is used with "I" or "We" in questions, suggestions or offers.

**Will** is used to express predictions, warnings, offers, promises, threats, requests, suggestions, on-the-spot decisions, opinions, hopes and fears.

**Would** is used to express polite or formal requests.

**Would like** is used to express polite or formal offers and suggestions.

# Ability



Can

Could/ was able  
to

Was able to

Couldn't/ wasn't  
able to

**Can** you swim? No, I **can't**. I **can** run fast though.

She **could/was able to** dance for hours when she was young. (repeated action)

He **was able to** win the race. (single action)

I **couldn't/wasn't able to** find my keys. (single action)

He **couldn't/wasn't able to** ski when he was young.  
(repeated action)



# Possibility/probability

He **may** be back before noon. (it's possible)

There **might** be some cheese in the fridge. (it's possible)

He **could** still be at home. (it's possible)

They look alike. They **must** be twins. (I think they are twins)

You have been sleeping all day. You **can't** be tired.

(I don't think it's possible that you are tired)

**Can** he still be at work? (is it possible?)

Can he be?

Is it possible?

o)



# Permission

Can

informal

**Can** I borrow your pen?

Could

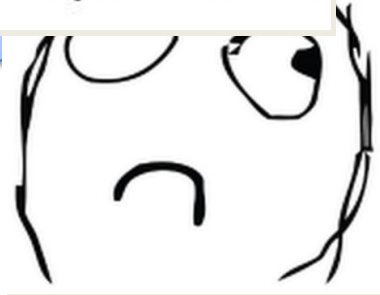
**Could** I borrow your pen?

May

**May** I use your phone?

Might

**Might** I see your driving licence, please?



# Giving/refusing permission

Can

May

Mustn't

Can't

informal giving permission

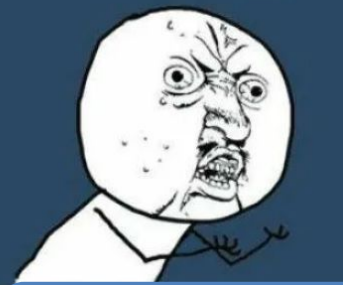
You **can** have one more if you want.

You **may** stay a little longer.

You **mustn't** park here.

You **can't** enter this room.





# Requests, offers or suggestions.



Can

Can you help me tidy my room?

Could

Could I have a little more cake please?

Would you like some more lemonade?

Would you

Shall I post this letter for you? (offer)

Shall I/w

Shall we buy him a present? (suggestion)

I'll make you some coffee if you want. (friendly offer)

Will

Will you do me a favour? (friendly request)

# Advice

Should/ought to

general advise; I advise you

Had better

advice for a specific situation; it's a good idea

You **should** walk more.

You'd **better** see your dentist.



# Obligation/necessity

Must

We **must** follow the school rules. (obligation; I'm obliged to)

Have to

I **must** see a doctor soon. (I decide it is necessary)

I've got to

I **have to** do my homework every day. (others decide it is necessary)

I've **got to** leave early today.

lings



# Absence of necessity or prohibition

**Mus** You **mustn't** park here. (it'd forbidden)

**Ca** You **can't** enter the club without a card. (you are not allowed)

You **needn't** take an umbrella. It's raining.

**Ne** You **don't need/have to** do it now. You can do it later. (it isn't necessary)

**Do need/h** He **didn't need/have to** go to work yesterday because it

**Di** was Sunday. (it was not necessary)  
**need/h**

