



Modal Verbs

shall

must

could

might

will

ought
to

may

would

should

can

What are modal verbs?



Modal verbs are special kind of **auxiliary verbs** that provide additional and specific meaning to the main verb of the sentence.

Compare:

You **CAN** use modal verbs.

You **MUST** use modal verbs.

You **HAVE TO** use modal verbs.

You **SHOULD** use modal verbs.

Functions of modal verbs

Modal verbs are used to express the following functions:

*Permission, Ability, Obligation, Prohibition,
Necessity, Advice, Possibility, Probability*

possibility

ability

permission

obligation



Jack **might** be wrong.



Tom **can** speak French.



Lisa **may** go to New York.



Jane **must** try harder.

Modals of ability

CAN – BE ABLE TO

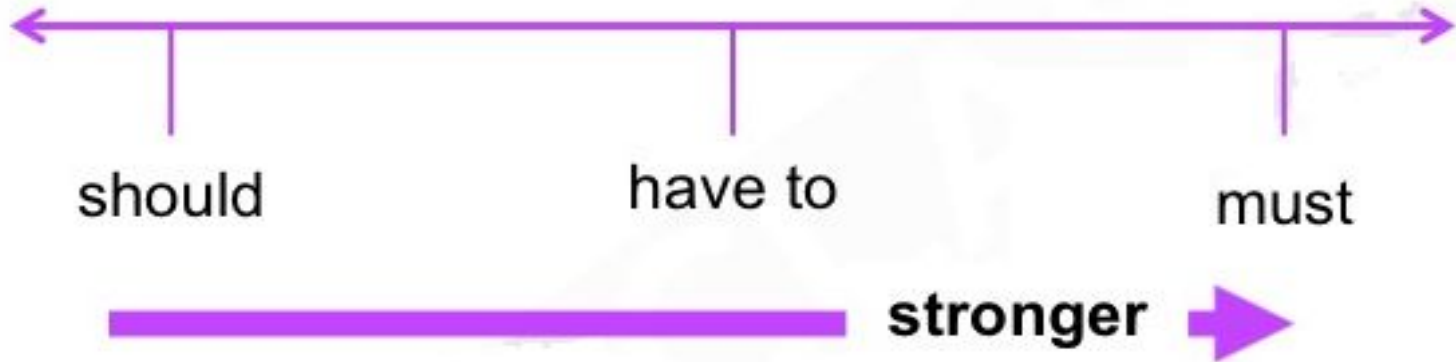
	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
CAN = <i>general physical or mental ability</i>	CAN / CAN'T <i>He can swim like a fish.</i> <i>She can't speak Spanish.</i>	COULD (repeated actions) <i>They could talk for hours when they lived together.</i> COULDN'T (single or repeated actions) <i>He couldn't win the race.</i> <i>We couldn't write well when we were in primary school.</i>	-----



Modals of ability

BE ABLE TO	AM / IS / ARE ABLE TO	WAS / WERE ABLE	WILL BE ABLE TO
<p><i>general physical or mental ability (more formal)</i></p>	<p><i>I <u>am able to</u> solve the problem myself.</i> <i>She <u>isn't able to</u> walk because she has broken her leg.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repeated actions <i>He <u>was able to</u> swim across the river when he was young.</i> • single action (= managed to) <i>We <u>were able to</u> get home before midnight.</i> <i>They <u>weren't able to</u> climb the mountain.</i> 	<p>(single or repeated actions) <i>You'll <u>be able to</u> drive a car if you practise a lot.</i> <i>He <u>won't be able to</u> attend the conference next month.</i></p>

Modals of obligation



You *should*
listen to
your
teacher.



You *have to*
listen to
your
teacher.

You *must*
listen to
your
teacher.

MUST vs HAVE TO

Must	Have to
<p>- законы, приказы:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ You <u>must</u> cross the street on the green light.☐ You <u>must</u> do your homework. <p>- моё личное обязательство (= Я решаю):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ I put on too much weight. I <u>must</u> go on a diet.	<p>- диктуется обстоятельствами (= вынужден)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ I have a terrible toothache. I <u>have to</u> go to the dentist☐ George can't come out with us this evening. He <u>has to</u> work. <p>- правила (= кто-то другой решает)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Schoolchildren <u>have to</u> wear a uniform.☐ She <u>has to</u> do the project for the History lesson.

MUSTN'T vs DON'T HAVE TO

PROHIBITION

You **mustn't** do something
= это противозаконно или
запрещено, поэтому НЕ делайте
это.

You mustn't smoke indoors

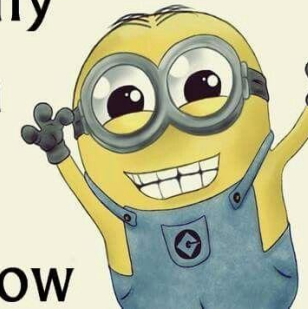


LACK OF NECESSITY

You **don't have to** do something
= вам НЕТ
НЕОБХОДИМОСТИ делать
это
(но если хотите, то делайте)

Yippee!

I don't have
to use my
Alarm
clock
Tomorrow



Lack of necessity

DON'T HAVE TO – DON'T NEED TO - NEEDN'T

- **Don't have to/Don't need to/Needn't + bare infinitive** (it is not necessary to do sth in the present or future).
*You **don't have to/don't need to/needn't** worry about it any more. I'll take care of that.* (It is not necessary to worry.)
- **Didn't need to/Didn't have to + bare infinitive** (It was not necessary in the past and we may not know if the action happened or not.) *She **didn't need to/didn't have to** buy a dress for the party.* (It wasn't necessary for her to buy a dress, and we don't know if she bought one.)

Absence of necessity: NEEDN'T HAVE TO

- **Needn't + bare perfect infinitive** (We know that something happened in the past although it was not necessary.) *You **needn't have said** that. She already knew my name.* (You said it, although it was not necessary.)

Obligation → advice

MUST – SHOULD – OUGHT TO - HAD BETTER

1. Must - Should

Must / mustn't = <i>должен /запрещено</i>	Should / shouldn't = <i>следует /не следует</i>
You must do something = это приказ или настойчивый совет ☐ <i>This film is great! You must see it.</i>	You should do something = это совет или рекомендация ☐ <i>It's cold there. You should take some warm clothes.</i>
You mustn't do something = это запрет ☐ <i>You mustn't walk the dog here.</i>	You shouldn't do something = это совет или рекомендация ☐ <i>You shouldn't eat a lot of fast food.</i>

Obligation → advice

2. SHOULD - OUGHT TO - HAD BETTER

SHOULD (not) + infinitive =	General advice or recommendation	<i>Jane should exercise more often.</i>
ОУГНТ (not) TO + infinitive = <i>следует</i>	= <i>should</i> (it's a good thing to do) Sometimes implies moral obligation. It's the right thing to do, but we don't always do it.	<i>Students ought to study hard if they really want to graduate.</i>
HAD BETTER (not) + infinitive = <i>лучше бы</i>	Advice only for a particular situation. Often implies some sort of problem if the advice isn't followed.	<i>It's freezing cold today. You'd better put on gloves and a scarf. □ (<u>particular situation</u>)</i>

Obligation → advice

3. Should - Be supposed to

Should / shouldn't	Be supposed to = <i>следовало бы, предполагается, что</i> (кто-то что-то делает)	be expected to behave in a particular way, especially according to a rule, an agreement, or someone in authority
<p><i>I should attend the seminar.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>(It's a good idea because I can get some useful information.)</i></p> <p><i>You shouldn't drink much fizzy drinks.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>(It's not a good idea because you may put on weight.)</i></p>	<p><i>I'm supposed to attend the seminar</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>(The manager expects me to do so.)</i></p> <p><i>You aren't supposed to have more than two drinks.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>(The reception organisers planned it so.)</i></p>	

Modals of permission

CAN - MAY - BE ALLOWED TO - BE PERMITTED TO



CAN -BE ALLOWED TO - BE PERMITTED TO

can / be allowed to (to talk about the **future** or **present**)

could (to talk about the **past** - used for repeated actions)

was / were allowed to (to talk about the **past** - used for repeated or single actions)

couldn't / wasn't allowed to (in **negations** or **questions** for either repeated or single actions)

*Eg. Pupils **are allowed to** / **can** use the school swimming pool free of charge.*

*Eg. She **could** always play at the park after school. (repeated action)*

*Eg. The reporter **was allowed to** (NOT: ~~**could**~~) take a photo of the pop singer. (single action)*

*Eg. The foreigner **wasn't allowed to** / **couldn't** enter the country without a visa. (single action)*

allow = permit → more formal

Asking for permission:

can (informal) /
could (more formal and polite)

Eg. ~ **Can** / **Could** I interrupt you for a second?

may (formal) /
might (very formal)

Eg. ~ **May** / **Might** I speak to the bank manager, please?

Giving or refusing permission:

can (informal; giving permission)

Note: **could** is not used in the present to give permission

may (formal; giving permission - also used in written notices or formal announcements)

mustn't / **can't** (informal - refusing permission)

may not (formal - refusing permission)

Eg. **Can** I use your phone? ~ Of course you **can**. (informal)

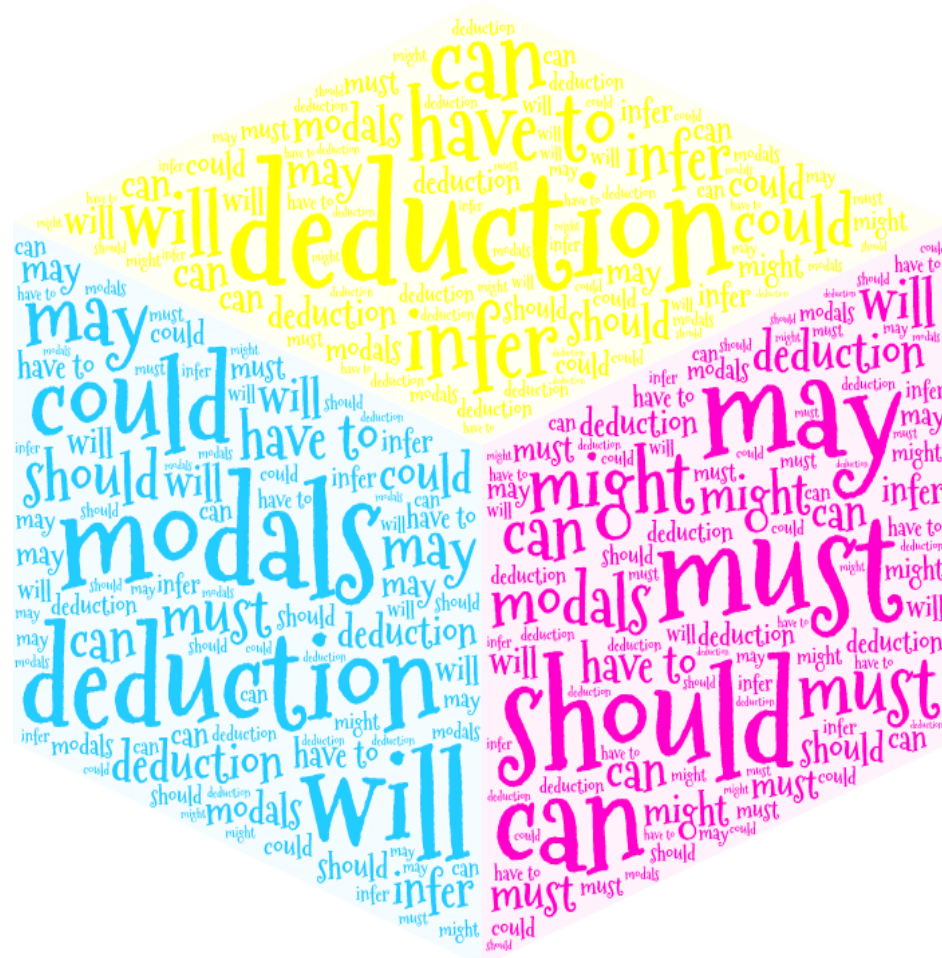
Eg. **Could** I use your phone? ~ Of course you **can**. • (**NOT:** Of course you ~~could~~)

Eg. **May** I use your phone? ~ Certainly you **may**. (formal) Luggage **may be** left here. (written notice)

Eg. ~ I'm afraid you **can't** / **mustn't** enter the room.

Eg. Rubbish **may not** be left here. (written notice)

MODALS OF SPECULATION



PROBABILITY
ВЕРОЯТНОСТЬ

99%

50%

30%

0%

NOW

He **must** be home.
(I see his car.)

He **may** be home.
(He said he was going home.)

He **might** be home.
(But I'm not sure, really.)

He **can't** be home.
(He's standing next to me.)

IN THE
PAST

He **must** have been home.
(I saw his car.)

He **may** have been home.
(He had said he was going home)

He **might** have been home.
(But I'm not sure, really.)

He **can't** have been home.
(He was standing next to me at that time.)

Present:

Somebody *is knocking* on the door!
Who is that?

It *must be* John.

He promised to visit me today.

We use **must** when we feel sure that something is true because there's very strong evidence.

It *might/may/could be* Jehovah's Witness.
They often go door to door.

We use **might, may or could** to say that we think something is possible but we're not sure.

It *can't be* Sarah. She is in Green Forest now.

We use **can't** when we feel sure something is not true.

Modals of deduction



It *must have been* Tom.

There is some ketchup on his shirt.

We use **must + perfect infinitive** when we feel sure about something in the past.



It *might/may/could have been* Jane.

She was in the kitchen 10 minutes ago.

We use **might, may or could** with the **perfect infinitive** to say that we think something was possible but we aren't sure.



It *can't/couldn't have been* Lisa.

She is on a diet.

We use **can't /couldn't+ perfect infinitive** when we feel sure something didn't happen in the past.

Past:

Somebody *has eaten* my hot dog.
Who was that?





SHOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

for giving advice and expressing regret

Should Have

Use **should have + past participle** when you mean something (in the past) was a good idea, but you didn't do it.

Examples:

- (1) *"I failed the test. I should have studied harder."*
- (2) *"Alice was late for class. She should have gotten up earlier."*

Shouldn't Have

Use **shouldn't have + past participle** when you mean something (in the past) wasn't a good idea, but you did it anyway.

Examples:

- (1) *"I fell off my bicycle. I shouldn't have been so careless."*
- (2) *"The dog bit Henry. He shouldn't have kicked the dog."*