

# Modal verbs



# COMMON FEATURES

- DON'T TAKE -S, -ING, OR -ED AFFIXES
- ARE FOLLOWED BY BARE INFINITIVE
- COME BEFORE THE SUBJECTS IN QUESTIONS AND ARE FOLLOWED BY NOT IN NEGATIONS.
- DON'T HAVE TENSES IN THE NORMAL SENSE  
WHEN THEY FOLLOWED BY NORMAL BARE INFINITIVE, THEY REFER TO AN UNCOMPLETED ACTION OR STATE(PRESENT OR FUTURE)
- WHEN FOLLOWED BY THE BARE PERFECT INFINITIVE, THEY REFER TO THE COMPLETED ACTION OR STATE (PAST)

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# MODAL VERBS ARE USED TO EXPRESS:

- OBLIGATION
  - DUTY
  - NECESSITY/ABSENCE OF NECESSITY
  - PERMISSION/PROHIBITION
  - POSSIBILITY
  - ABILITY/INABILITY
  - LOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS/DEDUCTIONS
  - CRITICISM
  - OFFERS/SUGGESTIONS
  - PROBABILITY
  - ADVICE
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# Obligation/duty/necessity

**MUST** - EXPRESSES DUTY /STRONG OBLIGATION TO DO SMTH, SHOWS THAT SMTH. IS ESSENTIAL. USUALLY THE SPEAKER HAS DECIDED THAT SMTH IS NECESSARY

**I MUST DO MY HOMEWORK EVERY DAY**

**HAVE TO** – EXPRESSES STRONG NECESSITY/OBLIGATION. IT IS USU. USED WHEN SOMEBODY OTHER THAN THE SPEAKER HAS DECIDED THAT SMTH. IS NECESSARY.

**THE TEACHER SAID THAT WE HAVE TO READ THIS PRESENTATION UP TO THE END OF THIS LESSON.**

**SHOULD/UGHT TO ARE USED TO EXPRESS DUTY, WEAK OBLIGATIONS**

**WE SHOULD KEEP OUR CLASSROOM IN ORDER.**

# Absence of necessity

DON'T HAVE TO/DON'T NEED TO/NEEDN'T

THEY ALL HAVE MEANING IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DO THIS IN THE PRESENT OR FUTURE

YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS EXERCISE IN WRITTEN FORM

DIDN'T HAVE TO REFER THE ABSENCE OF NECESSITY TO THE PAST

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LEARN THIS POEM BY HEART

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# Permission/prohibition

CAN/MAY (MORE FORMAL) ARE USED TO ASK FOR/ GIVE A PERMISSION

MAY I USE YOUR MOBILE?

MUSTN'T / CAN'T – IT IS FORBIDDEN TO DO SMTH. IT'S AGAINST THE RULE OR LAW.

YOU MUSTN'T SHOUT AT THE LESSONS.

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# Possibility

**CAN+PRESENT INFINITIVE – EXPRESSES GENERAL POSSIBILITY. USUALLY IS NOT USED AT SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.**

**IT CAN BE INTERESTING TO LEARN SECOND LANGUAGE**

**COULD/MAY/MIGHT + PRESENT INFINITIVE –POSSIBLE IN SPECIFIC SITUATION**

**SHE SHOULD USE GPS NAVIGATOR. SHE MIGHT GET LOST.**

**COULD/MIGHT/WOULD B+ PERFECT INFINITIVE – REFERS TO SMTH IN THE PAST THAT WAS POSSIBLE BUT DIDN'T HAPPEN.**

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**YOU COULD HAVE HELPED HIM WITH HIS HOMEWORK ( BUT YOU DIDN'T DO THAT)**

# Ability/inability

**CAN** –EXPRESSES ABILITY TO THE PRESENT

I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY

**COULD** – REFERS ABILITY TO THE PAST

I COULD SPEAK FRENCH WHEN I WAS TEN.

**WAS ABLE TO** – EXPRESSES ABILITY(INABILITY) ON A SPECIFIC OCCASION IN THE PAST

I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS

**COULDN'T** – MAY BE USED TO EXPRESS ANY KIND OF INABILITY IN THE PAST, REPEATED OR SPECIFIC.

I COULDN'T READ WHEN I WAS THREE.

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# Logical assumptions/Deduction

**MUST** – YOU ARE ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IT IS/ WAS TRUE  
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ALL DAY LONG. YOU MUST BE TIRED.

**MAY/MIGHT/COULD** – POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS/WAS TRUE  
CALL HIM NOW. HE MIGHT BE AT HOME.

**CAN'T/COULDN'T** – ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THIS IS/WAS IMPOSSIBLE

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. IT CAN'T BE YOU. I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

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# Criticism

**COULD** - YOU COULD AT LEAST DO YOUR HOMEWORK

**SHOULD** - HE SHOULD HAVE WARNED US ABOUT HIS BEING LATE.

**OUGHT TO** - YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CAREFUL

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# Offers/Suggestions

**CAN I HELP YOU?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TEA?**

**SHALL I BRING YOU A BOOK?**

**CAN/COULD** WE COULD PLAY TENNIS.

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# Probability

EXPRESSES WITH **WILL** OR **SHOULD**

HE WILL DO IT IMMEDIATELY (100 % CERTAINTY)

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# **Advice**

**CAN BE EXPRESSED WITH SHOULD/  
OUGHT TO FOR EXPRESSING GENERAL  
ADVICE**

**YOU SHOULD GIVE UP SMOKING IMMEDIATELY**

**SHALL IS USED FOR ASKING THE  
ADVICE**

**SHALL I FOLLOW HIS ADVICE?**

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Do the following exercise. Translate these sentences into English. Indicate what does each modal verb express.

1. ОН СКАЗАЛ ЧТО НАМ НАДО БЫТЬ В АЭРОПОРТУ К 6 УТРА, ЧТОБЫ УСПЕТЬ НА РЕГИСТРАЦИЮ(HAVE TO)
2. ЕМУ НЕ НУЖНО БЫЛО ПРИГЛАШАТЬ НА ВЕЧЕРИНКУ ВЕСЬ КЛАСС.(NEED)
3. МОЖНО Я ВОСПОЛЬЗУЮСЬ ТВОИМ СЛОВАРИКОМ?
4. ВЫ НЕ ДОЛЖНЫ ЗАХОДИТЬ В ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫЙ ТРАНСПОРТ БЕЗ МАСКИ (MUST)
5. ПРИХОДИ НА ВЕЧЕРИНКУ СЕГОДНЯ. ТАМ МОЖЕТ БЫТЬ ИНТЕРЕСНО.(MIGHT)
6. ОН МОГ БЫ СЕЙЧАС ВСЕЛИТЬСЯ ВМЕСТЕ С НАМИ, ЕСЛИ БЫ НЕ ОПОЗДАЛ НА АВТОБУС. (COULD)
7. Я СМОГЛА НАЙТИ ХОРОШУЮ НЯНЮ. ( TO BE ABLE TO)
8. ТЫ ДОЛЖНО БЫТЬ ШУТИШЬ( MUST)
9. ДЖОН МОГ БЫ ТЕБЕ ДЕЙСТВИТЕЛЬНО ПОМОЧЬ (COULD)
10. НЕ ЖЕЛАЕТЕ ЛИ ЧАШЕЧКУ ЧАЯ?(WOULD)
11. НЕБО ПРОЯСНЯЕТСЯ. ПОГОДА ЗАВТРА ВЕРОЯТНО УЛУЧШИТЬСЯ. (OUGHT TO)
12. ЗДЕСЬ ДУШНО. МНЕ ОТКРЫТЬ ОКНО?
13. ОНА ДОЛГО ГОТОВИЛАСЬ К ЭКЗАМЕНУ. НЕСОМНЕННО ОНА ЕГО СПАСТ (WILL)