

MODAL VERBS

- The modal verbs are: **can, could, may, might, must, ought to, will, would, shall, should, have to, need.**
- They take **no –s** in the **3rd person singular** except for **have to** and **need**.
- They come before the subject in questions and take “not” after them in negations.
- They are followed by the infinitive without to except for **ought to** and **have to**.
- Modal verbs are used to express: ability, permission, requests, offers, suggestions, obligation, absence of obligation, prohibition, advice, possibility, probability and deduction.

ABILITY	
CAN: ability in the present or future	He can speak Italian. We can't meet them tomorrow. Can you hear that noise?
COULD: ability in the past.	She could walk when she was only nine months old.
BE ABLE TO: Can has only two forms: can (present simple) and could (past simple). We use be able to in the other tenses.	They are able to talk = They can talk. They were able to talk = They could talk. They will be able to talk. They have been able to talk.

PERMISSION	
CAN, COULD, MAY: •To ask somebody's permission to do sth.	Can I use your phone? (informal) Could I use your phone? (more polite) May I use your phone? (more formal)
CAN, MAY •To give sb permission to do sth.	You can borrow my camera. You may borrow my camera. (more formal)
CAN'T, MAY NOT •To refuse somebody's permission for sth.	You can't park here. You may not park here.
BE ALLOWED TO: •To refer to rules and more generally, to what is and is not allowed, we use CAN, COULD and BE ALLOWED TO.	Students can use the library on Mondays. Students are allowed to use the library on Mondays. Can we leave school early tomorrow? Will we be allowed to leave...? I couldn't stay up late when I was eleven. I wasn't allowed to stay up late when I was eleven.

REQUESTS	
CAN, COULD, WILL, WOULD: •To ask somebody to do sth for us.	Can you help me? Could you open the window, please? Will you carry this bag for me? Would you post these letters?
CAN, COULD, MAY I...? •To ask for sth from sb. (But we can't use Will /Would I...?)	Can I have some water? Could I speak to Mr Jones? May I use your pen?

OFFERS	
I'll...	I'll help you with that suitcase.
Shall I...?	Shall I help you with that suitcase?
Can I...?	Can I help you with that suitcase?
Could I...?	Could I help you with that suitcase?
Would you like me to...?	Would you like me to help you with that suitcase?
Would you like...?	Would you like a cup of tea?

SUGGESTIONS	
Shall we...?	Shall we go out tonight?
We can /could ...	We can/ could go out tonight.
How/What about...?	How/What about going out tonight?
Why don't we...?	Why don't we go out tonight?

OBLIGATION	
MUST: •To express obligation in the present or future when the speaker decides. •Must is used only for present and future situations. It borrows the rest of its tenses form have to.	I must lose some weight. (I say so.) I had to go to work early yesterday. ("Must" is not possible here as it is used only in the present.)
HAVE TO: • To express obligation. The necessity comes from outside the speaker. •It forms its questions and negations with do/does (Present Simple) and did (Past Simple)	I have to lose some weight. (The doctor says so; the doctor decides for me) Did you have to stay late at work yesterday? Yes, I had to type urgent letters.
HAVE GOT TO: •It's used in the same way as have to. We usually use it in oral speech.	We've got to do our homework./ We have to do our homework. Have we got to do our homework?/ Do we have to do our homework?

ABSENCE OF NECESSITY	
DON'T HAVE TO +INF. DON'T NEED TO + INF. NEEDN'T + INF. •To refer to sth that is not necessary.	You don't have to/ don't need to take a jacket. It's rather warm. You needn't get up early tomorrow.
DIDN'T NEED TO / DIDN'T HAVE TO •It wasn't necessary in the past and we may not know if the action happened or not.	He didn't need to buy any milk. There was a lot in the fridge. (I don't know if he bought any.) He didn't have to go to work yesterday
NEEDN'T +HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE •We know that sth happened in the past although it was not necessary.	She needn't have bought any milk. There was a lot in the fridge. (I know she bought some milk but there was no need.)

PROHIBITION	
MUSTN'T (It's forbidden)	You mustn't enter the room. You mustn't touch the paintings.
CAN'T (you aren't allowed to)	You can't wait here. You can't park here.

ADVICE	
SHOULD/UGHT TO (=It is the best thing to do; I advise you to) (UGHT TO is sometimes used for advice based on laws, rules or generally accepted ideas)	You should stop smoking. (general advice; I advise you) You ought to visit your dentist twice a year for a check.
HAD BETTER (=It's a good idea –advice for a specific situation)	
CRITICISM (Saying what the best thing to do in the past was) SHOULD /UGHT TO + HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE	You shouldn't have been rude to her yesterday. (but you were) You should have locked the car before leaving. (but you didn't)

POSSIBILITY	
COULD, MAY, MIGHT+ Present Infinitive: To express possibility in the PRESENT or FUTURE. In the NEGATIVE sentences, we can use MAY NOT or MIGHT NOT, but not COULDN'T.	Jim is not at the office. He could be at home. Sam could /may/might pass his test this time. I may/might not come with you tomorrow. (No: I couldn't...)
COULD, MAY, MIGHT + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE: To express possibility in the PAST.	Jim is not here. He may have gone home.

PROBABILITY	
OUGHT TO/ SHOULD + present infinitive	Tom ought to / should pass his exams. (He will probably pass.)
OUGHT TO /SHOULD + perfect infinitive (to show that we expected sth to happen but we don't know if it happened or not)	Has Nancy phoned yet? She should /ought to have phoned an hour ago? (We don't know whether she phoned or not)

DEDUCTION	
CAN'T /COULDN'T + present infinitive (=I don't think; It's logically improbable)	She can't be rich. Her house is too small.
MUST + present infinitive (I think, I'm fairly sure; it's logically probable)	His face is red. He must be very angry.
CAN'T /COULDN'T + perfect infinitive (It's impossible that sth happened in the past)	She can't have seen a ghost!
MUST + perfect infinitive (It's very probable that sth happened in the past)	I didn't hear the phone. I must have been asleep.

EXERCISES

1. Complete with the correct form of BE ABLE TO.

- Sarawrite when she was five.
- We had our cameras with us, so we.....take some photographs.
-you.....help me clean the garage tomorrow?
- I.....sing since I was a child.
- Nobody called the police, so the thievesescape.

2. Complete with the correct form of BE ALLOWED TO.

- Put that cigarette out! Yousmoke in here!
- We visited the museum but we.....take any photos.
-we.....see the plans tomorrow?
- We.....usually.....stay up late on Saturdays.
- When I was a student, we.....wear jeans at school.

3. Rewrite the sentences using the word given.

- We are allowed to turn left here. (can)
We...
- Can I use the equipment? (allowed)
Am...
- People aren't allowed to bring sandwiches into the library. (can't)
People...
- Can you eat and drink in a museum? (allowed)
Are...
- He isn't allowed to use his computer in the aeroplane. (can't)
He...
- You can look at your test papers now. (allowed)
You...
- Are we allowed to take our dog into the restaurant? (can)
...
- We can feed the ducks at the lake. (allowed)
...

4 Ask for permission in the following situations.

- 1 You're at a friend's house and you'd like to use the phone. Ask your friend.
.....
- 2 You're in a library and you need to borrow a pen. A boy sitting next to you has got one. Ask him.
.....
- 3 You'd like to go to the cinema tonight. Ask your parents.
.....
- 4 You're on a bus, it's hot and the window's closed. Ask the driver.
.....
- 5 You're in a clothes shop and you'd like to try on a shirt. Ask the shop assistant.
.....
- 6 You're having an English lesson but you'd like to leave class early. Ask your teacher.
.....
- 7 It's your birthday next week and you'd like to have a party on Saturday. Ask your parents.
.....

5 Make REQUESTS in the following situations.

- 1 You're carrying some books and you can't open the door. Ask your friend to open it for you.
.....
- 2 You're at a friend's house and you're thirsty. Ask your friend's mother for a glass of water.
.....
- 3 You're trying to sleep but your brother is making a noise. Ask him to be quiet.
.....
- 4 You're in bed. You're cold and the window's open. Ask your sister to close it.
.....
- 5 You're trying to do an exercise but you can't. Ask your teacher to help you.
.....
- 6 You call a friend but he/she isn't at home. Ask his/her mother to give him/her a message.
.....
- 7 Your friend has come to pick you up but you aren't ready. Ask him/her to wait for five minutes.
.....

6. Complete with SHALL I...? or I'LL... and the correct verb.

- 1 A: It's hot.
B:the window?
- 2 A: I haven't got enough money to buy this book.
B:you some.
- 3 A: I'm thirsty.
B:you some water?
- 4 A: It's dark in here.
B:on the light?
- 5 A: I can't do this exercise.
B:you.
- 6 A: We need some bread.
B:to the baker's?
- 7 A: These books are too heavy.
B:them for you.

7. Complete with WOULD YOU LIKE...? or WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO...?

- 1some tea?
- 2pour you another cup of tea?
- 3a cheese sandwich?
- 4pass you the salt?
- 5hold that for you?
- 6another slice of cake?
- 7drive you to the airport?
- 8 a glass of water?

8 SUGGESTIONS. Complete with the correct form of the verb.

- NANCY: It's late. What about(get) dinner ready?
MARK: Yes, I'm hungry. Shall we.....(make) a pizza?
FRANCIS: We could.....(order) one from the takeaway.
NANCY: Well, yes, we could. But home-made pizza is tastier. How about.....(help)?
Francis, what about.....(lay) the kitchen table?
MARK: Why don't we(have) dinner outside on the balcony? It's a lovely evening.
NANCY: Good idea.

9 Rewrite the sentences using the word given.

- 1 Why don't we watch TV?
How...
- 2 I couldn't sleep last night. (able)
I....
- 3 Shall I carry that bag for you?
Would...
- 4 What about inviting Larry to the party?
Why...
- 5 I'd like some more coffee.
Could...
- 6 It's against the law to drive without a licence. (allowed)
You...
- 7 Why don't we listen to some music?
Shall...
- 8 We couldn't find a room at the hotel.
We weren't...
- 9 My parents said I couldn't go to Jill's party last week. (allow)
My parents didn't...
- 10 Would you like me to get you some tea?
Shall ...
- 11 Joanna pushed the door but she couldn't open it. (able)
Joanna pushed the door but she...
- 12 Children can't use the equipment without permission. (to)
Children...
- 13 Shall we cook dinner tonight? (us)
Would...
- 14 I'm bored. What about going to the cinema?
I'm bored. Why...

10 Circle the correct word.

- 1 I **must /have to** put a new film in my camera. I want to take some pictures.
- 2 In Britain you **must/have to** drive on the left.
- 3 I **must/have to** start working harder. I'd like to improve my marks at school.
- 4 You **must/have to** get a new passport if you want to travel to the USA.
- 5 We **must/have to** wear a uniform at work.

11 Complete with MUSTN'T or DON'T HAVE TO.

- 1 Youwait for me. I can meet you later.
- 2 Wemake any noise when we go inside. Everyone's asleep.
- 3 Hurry up! We.....be late!
- 4 You.....leave yet. You can stay a bit longer.
- 5 I.....forget to call Tim. It's very important.
- 6 Shego to school tomorrow. It's the weekend.

12 Complete with DIDN'T NEED TO or NEEDN'T HAVE and the correct form of the verb.

- 1 I(wake) her. She was already in the shower.
- 2 She(stay) at the office, so she came home early.
- 3 Thank you for the flowers but you really(buy) so many.
- 4 Why didn't you take the bus? You.....(walk) home.
- 5 Pamela gave the children a lift, so they.....(walk) to school today.
- 6 You.....(borrow) Dave's bike. You could have used mine.

13 Form sentences using HAD BETTER.

- 1 It's cold (you/put on / a coat)
.....
- 2 You don't look very well. (you/not go/ to school today)
.....
- 3 It's 10.30! (we/hurry)
.....
- 4 Mike will be waiting for us at the bus stop. (we/not be/late)
.....
- 5 Look at those clouds! (you/take/an umbrella/ with you)
.....

14 Rewrite the sentences using the words given.

- 1 Why didn't you call me last night? (should)
You.....
- 2 Why were you so rude to her? (shouldn't)
You.....
- 3 Why didn't tell me about this? (ought)
He.....
- 4 Why didn't you leave her a note? (should)
You.....
- 5 Why did she invite Mike to the party? (shouldn't)
She.....

15 Rewrite the sentences using the words given.

- 1 Perhaps he's in his room.
He....
- 2 Perhaps she'll lend us the money.
She...
- 3 Perhaps he missed the bus.
He...
- 4 Maybe they'll come with us.
They...
- 5 It's possible that he forgot about the meeting.
He...
- 6 It's likely that she lost her way.
She...
- 7 Perhaps he's too busy to call.
He...

16 DEDUCTION. Complete with MUST, MUST HAVE, CAN'T, CAN'T HAVE and the correct form of the verb.

- 1 You.....(be) hungry! You've just had three sandwiches!
- 2 He.....(be) tired. He got out of bed twenty minutes ago.
- 3 They.....(be) at the theatre last night. They moved to Australia a year ago!
- 4 David's late. He.....(miss) the bus.
- 5 They.....(arrive) in Paris. They only left London half an hour ago.
- 6 That.....(be) Linda's brother. He looks a lot like her.
- 7 That looks like Kate but it.....(be) her. Kate's got blue eyes.

17 REWRITE the sentences.

- 1 I'm almost sure that wasn't Jane.
That.....
- 2 You aren't allowed to enter this room.
You....
- 3 It wasn't necessary for you to buy all these books.
You...
- 4 It wasn't right that you talked to her like that.
You...
- 5 You should look for a better job.
You...
- 6 Perhaps she's at the office.
She...
- 7 It isn't necessary for her to wear a uniform at school.
She...
- 8 You don't have to cook lunch today.
You...
- 9 It's possible that they got lost.
They...
- 10 I'm sure they have gone out.
They...
- 11 If I were you, I would visit Japan instead of China.
You...
- 12 I really think you should work harder.
You...

