

MODAL VERBS

FORM

- Modal verbs don't take the **3rd person sg. -s**
- They are **defective** verbs
- They are not followed by to infinitive, but by **BARE INFINITIVE**
- They don't need **auxiliary verbs** for the question and negative forms
- Note: **cannot = can't**
- Some are considered to be **semi-modal verbs**: ought to, have to, need
 - Laura has to go home.
 - She doesn't have to go home
 - Carmelo ought to study more

USE:

ABILITY:

- Can : Claudia can ride a bike
- Cannot / can't: Tamara cannot drive
- Could: Andrea could ride a bike when she was 6.
- To be able to: Noelia is able to ride a bike

PERMISSION /PROHIBITION

- Nuria can go out on Saturday night
- Elena cannot go out on Saturday night
- You mustn't use the phone while you are driving
- **To be allowed to**: Nuria is allowed to go out on Saturday night

OBLIGATION

- Adrián must study more to pass
- David has to attend meetings for class representatives.

NECESSITY

- Need to: You need to study harder

LACK OF OBLIGATION

- Ivanna doesn't have to wear a uniform
- Ivanna needn't wear a uniform.

ADVICE

- Claudia **should** go to the doctor.
- Martín **ought to** go to the doctor.
- Adrián **shouldn't** have friends such as Martín.
- Adrián **ought not to** have friends such as Martín.

POSIBILITY

- **Can** : Rugby can be a dangerous sport. A certain degree. (60% chances)
- **Could / May / might**: It may rain tomorrow. A lower degree. (50-20%)
- **Can't**: certainty that something is impossible (0% chances)
- **Must**: certainty that something is true (100% chances)

POLITENESS

- **Can**: requests – Can you open the window?
- **Could**: polite requests and suggestions – Could you open the window, please?
- **May**: polite requests – May I open the window, please?
May I have the salt, please?
- **Would**: formal request or offer – Would you open the window?/Would you like some tea?
- **Shall**: polite offer or request (first person) – Shall I help you?