

one small
positive
thought
in the
morning can
change
your whole
day

had to ought
should can't
mustn't
have you must
shouldn't
better oughtn't

MODAL VERBS

Grammar review

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WHAT ARE MODAL VERBS?

- special **verbs** which behave very irregularly and that are used to indicate modality – ability, possibility, likelihood, probability, permission, and obligation.

LIST OF MODAL VERBS

- Can
- Could
- May
- Might
- Must
- Shall
- Should
- Will
- Would
- Ought to

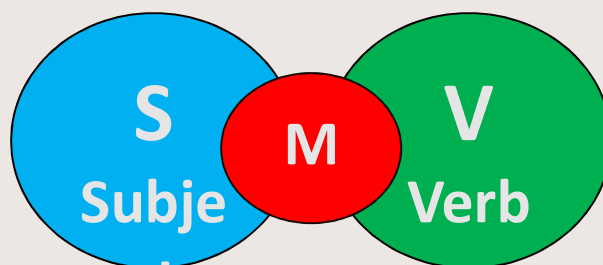
They are **Auxiliary verbs** that provide additional and specific meaning to the main verb of the sentence

Modal verbs are sometimes referred to as **Modal Auxiliary verbs** because they **help** other verbs

Structure of Modal Verbs

I	Modal Verb (can /should, etc.)	Infinitive (without TO)
You		
He		
She		
It		
We		
They		

How do we use modals?



Example: **Mary** **can** **play** the piano

- they are not conjugated
- they don't need other auxiliary verbs

Form

There is no “s” in singular

There is no “do / does” in the question

There is no “don’t / doesn’t” in the negative

He **can** ski **not** ~~He cans ski or He can skis.~~

Would you like to come with me?

~~Do you would like to come with me?~~

They **can’t** be serious.

~~They don’t can be serious.~~

Form

Modal verbs do not have **infinitives** or **–ing** forms

~~to~~ can / ~~caning~~

~~to~~ must / ~~musting~~

Modal verbs are followed by an infinitive without **to**

She **must** study.

He **could** play football in his youth. (general ability)

We **should** have gone the other way.

Form

Modal verbs do **not** have **all the tenses**

Many modals cannot be used with the past or the
future tenses

Can - be able to

Must - have to

I **can** solve the problem. – I **was able to** solve the problem.

You **must** come early. – You **had to** come early yesterday.

Modals in the Past

- refer to actions that happened in the past

MODAL + HAVE + verb in past participle

It **must** have **been** *a difficult decision*

They **should** have **invited** her to their wedding

CAN

- 1) to express ability:

Ryan can speak French but he cannot speak German.

Superman can do things that ordinary people can't.

- 2) to express request:

Can you help Sue?

Can I offer you something to drink?

- 3) to express permission:

Can I use your cell phone?

You can't go out with Victor.

- 4) to express possibility:

If the weather is perfect tomorrow, we can go on a picnic.

I can be ready by five.

I will be ready five.

COULD

- 1) to express abilities in the past:
Jason could talk when he was four.
- 2) to express permission:
Could I leave the classroom?
- 3) to express future possibility:
I could get a bad final mark. It depends on the next exam.
- 4) could with present perfect tense is used to express something in the past may be real.
You could have been killed in that accident.
I could have won that game.

SHALL

1) to express the simple future for the first person.

- Shall we meet at the bus stop?
- I shall never forget your help.

WILL

- 1) present to future tense:

Sean will leave tomorrow. She will be back in a few days.

If it rains, the soccer game will be put off.

- 2) express willing,

If you won't go and help him, I will.

I will wash the dishes if you cook.

WOULD

1) as the past tense of will:

She said she would buy dinner on her way home.
I believed it would rain so I brought my raincoat.

2) to express polite request:

Would you please take off your coat?
Would you mind turning the radio off?

SHOULD

- 1) to give advice and opinions

You are driving too fast; you should slow down a little bit.

You have gained a lot of weight. You should go on a diet.

- 2) to express expectations:

Are you ready? The taxi should be here soon.

Twenty dollars is enough. It shouldn't cost more than that.

- 3) to suggest a less strong possibility

If you should pass the bakery, can you buy some bread?

Should with present perfect tense means something in the past should not be done.

The baby is crying. You shouldn't have talked so loudly.

She is angry. You shouldn't have come back so late.

MUST and HAVE TO

1) express something is necessary and essential

You must pay by cash.

You have to drive on the right in France.

2) Students have to wear uniform.

must not is used to express something is not permitted or allowed.

You mustn't smoke, eat and drink in the museum.

You must not drink and drive.

3) not have to is used to express something that is not to be done necessarily.

We don't have to get up early on Saturday.

She doesn't have to live in the hotel. She can live with us.

MAY

1) express possibility in the present or in the future.

It may rain.

Elizabeth may know his telephone number.

2) for permission:

May I come in?

You may come if you want.

3) to express wish or hope.

May you a long life!

MIGHT

- 1) to express possibility in the present or in the future.

Ashley might be in the library. I am not sure.

George might come as well.

He may come.

He might come. (the chance that he comes is less likely than may)

- 2) might with present perfect tense means speculation about the past.

Edward is late. He might have missed his bus or he might have overslept.

Exercise: Use an appropriate modal verb in each sentence.

1. Owen _____ (not) do his homework because tomorrow is Saturday.
2. Drivers _____ stop at a stop sign.
3. _____ you make a copy for me?
4. We _____ leave now or we will be late.
5. A: _____ I use your laptop computer? B: Of course you _____.
6. I _____ rather cook tonight.
7. _____ I go to the restroom, Miss Chang?
8. _____ you prefer chicken or steak for dinner?
9. I _____ catch the bus this morning. My father drove me to school.
10. _____ you answer the phone?
11. When I was young, I _____ speak better English than now.
12. You look pale. You _____ go to a doctor.
13. You have been driving for ten hours. You _____ be exhausted.
14. We _____ rent a car. My father will lend us his.

Practise

1. My son ____ be home by now. Where can he be?
a. Have to b. Would **c. Should** d. Could
2. I think your thumb is broken. You ____ go to the emergency room.
a. Might b. could **c. ought to** d. can
3. If you are interested in losing weight, you _____ try this new diet.
a. Could b. mustn't c. don't have to d. had to
4. Johnnie's fallen down the stairs! I _____ call an ambulance!
a. Will b. might c. may d. ought to
5. You _____ come too early. We won't leave until 9 o'clock.
a. Has to b. must **c. needn't** d. can't

Practise

6. Children _____ be accompanied by an adult at the zoo.
a. Ought to **b. must** c. would d. mustn't
7. You _____ talk during tests. It's forbidden!
a. don't have to **b. mustn't** c. couldn't d. ought to
8. I can feel the heat. We _____ be near the fire.
a. Can b. would **c. must** d. have to
9. They _____ hear him because he was whispering.
a. Wouldn't b. mustn't c. shouldn't **d. couldn't**
10. You've never heard of Britney Spears! You _____ be serious!
a. Must b. had to **c. can't** d. shouldn't

Practise

11. _____ you like to have dinner with me tonight?

- a. Could b. may c. should **d. would**

12. You _____ let him hear about the party tomorrow. It's a surprise!

- a. mustn't** b. wouldn't c. couldn't d. can

13. _____ I speak to the Chief of Police, please?

- a. Must **b. May** c. Would d. Need

14. He has arrived late. He _____ missed the bus

- a. Must have** b. Should have c. Could have d. must

More practise

Re-write the following sentences using modals so that they have the same meaning.

1. I suggest that you get a good lawyer!

You should get a lawyer

2. A university degree isn't necessary for that job.

You needn't have a university degree for that job
don't have to have a university...

3. Perhaps my father will pick you up.

My father may / might pick you up

4. Eating is forbidden in class!

You mustn't eat in class

Use your imagination

Think about these situations and create a sentence using modals.

1. We are going to Paris for a weekend. (Make suggestions about things to do)
2. We start school in September. (Talk about necessity)
3. Margaret is a very talented sportswoman. (Talk about ability)
4. You have just won the lottery! (Talk about possibility)
5. Peter has got a headache and a congested nose. (Give him some advice)
6. You want to borrow your uncle's Mercedes Benz. (Ask for permission politely)

Possible answers

1. We could visit the Louvre / We should go up the Eiffel Tower
2. We have to buy a new notebook
3. She can speak 3 languages! / She is able to play the piano and the violin
4. I might stop working / I may buy a new car / I can travel to New York
5. You should see a doctor / You ought to drink hot tea
6. Can I borrow your car, please? or May I borrow your car, please?

JUST KIDDING

MR. SAUER, I CAN'T TAKE
THIS REPORT CARD HOME.
CAN'T YOU MAKE A FEW
CHANGES?!

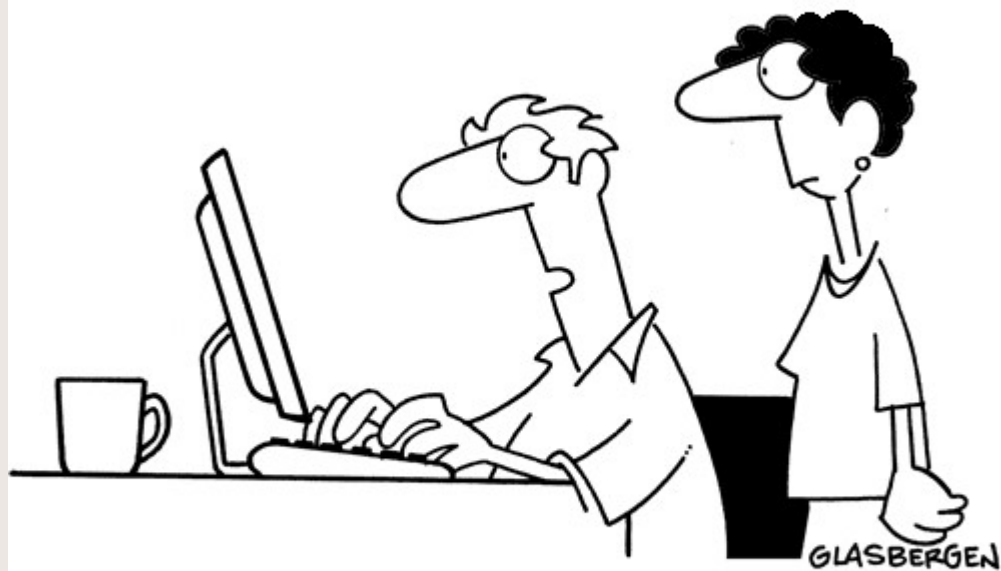
WELL, I SUPPOSE
I COULD USE
A LARGER
FONT.



11-19

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**"I'm writing about all the things I ought to
do before I die. It's my oughtobiography."**



"SORRY, WE CAN'T E-MAIL
YOUR PIZZA AS ATTACHMENT."

Our neighbor Mr. Smith
kisses his wife every day
before he goes to work
how come you never do?

Honey!? How could I?
I don't even know her!





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