

Advanced modal expressions

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3816X

LANGUAGE
English



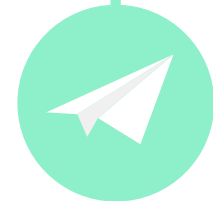


Goals

- Can use a range of more advanced modal expressions with 'be' to express obligation, such as 'be meant to' and 'be supposed to'.
- Can express degrees of certainty about the future using 'be bound to' and 'be likely to'.



In this lesson you **are bound to** learn a lot if you do as you **are supposed to** and concentrate hard.





Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to learn some new **modal expressions** to talk about **possibility** and **certainty**.



That cat **must be** really clever.



Modals of obligation review

- Below is a **review** of the most common **modals of obligation** which you should already be familiar with.

must/have to	obligation	You must have a passport to travel to the USA.
don't have to/don't need to	no obligation	You don't have to wear a tie to work.
mustn't	negative obligation	You mustn't smoke indoors.
should/ought to	advice/no obligation	You should go to the doctor if you feel ill.



Modals for degrees of certainty

Here is a review of the main **modal verbs** used to express **certainty**.

- **Must** is used when we are certain
- **May/might/could** are used when we are not sure
- **Can't** is used when we are sure something is not true

must	That must be your mum; she always calls at this time.
might/may/could	That might be my sister; she sometimes calls on a Sunday.
can't	That can't be my mum calling; she's in the middle of the desert.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the previous pages.

1. It _____ be really difficult to make sushi properly – the chefs train for years.
2. You _____ show your passport when crossing the French-German border.
3. People _____ smoke on aeroplanes.
4. They _____ be here already! They're 20 minutes early.
5. Most school children _____ do homework every night.





Answer the questions with your classmates or teacher.

What do you have to
do every morning?

What should you do
when you have a
toothache?

When mustn't you
speak too loudly?

What don't you have
to do on Sundays?



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences however you see fit using the modal verbs for degrees of certainty on p. 6

1. My purse isn't in my bag...
2. I saw Janet all dressed up in town today so...
3. We will try to be there on time but...
4. We've been driving for hours and not seen a soul...
5. Jack's car is blue so...



Be meant to and be supposed to

- These expressions have similar meanings. In the present tense with **be**, they both mean that something **should happen**, or is **expected** to happen.
- They express **external obligations**.

meant to	supposed to
You are meant to call your mum before you set off.	I am supposed to finish my homework before I go out.
It is meant to be a Victoria sponge cake but I forgot to add the sugar!	She is supposed to eat her dinner before she has ice cream.



Be meant to and be supposed to

- These **expressions** can also be used like on the previous page with the **past tense** of the verb *be*.
- They mean that **something should have happened but it didn't**.

Meant to	Supposed to
We were meant to go on holiday today but our son is ill.	The concert was supposed to start at 7pm – why the delay?
You were meant to call me three hours ago!	You were supposed to clean the kitchen before the guests arrived!



Meant to

- *Meant to* can also be used **without be**.
- In this case it becomes an **internal obligation**, something that **you wanted to do but did not**.

I meant to call you but I forgot.

She meant to pay him back but she left her money at home.

They meant to be on time but the train was delayed.

We meant to send a card but time got away from us.





Be forced to

- If you ***are forced to*** do something, someone makes you do it **against your will**.

Present	Other tenses
I am forced to take the train to work every day.	I was forced to sit with someone I really hate.
She is forced to spend a lot on childcare.	You will be forced to withdraw more money.
They are forced to wear a uniform to school.	I used to be forced to eat vegetables.



My dad **is** always **forcing** me **to** clean up.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with words from the previous slides.

1. I don't know where she is – she was _____ to be here 20 minutes ago.
2. I was _____ to give up running when I was pregnant.
3. Oh I _____ to tell you, mum's coming for lunch.
4. My housemate is really tidy so I am _____ to clean up as soon as I have eaten.
5. Alice was _____ to tell you about the meeting, she must have forgotten.





Writing

Make notes about things that you are supposed to or meant to know what to do when you first leave home.

Talk with your classmates about whether you actually knew how to do them.

You're supposed to know how to do laundry.





Speaking

When was the last time you
meant to do something and
then completely forgot?
What did you do to make up for
your forgetfulness?





Being forced

Did your parents force you to do anything or eat anything you hated when you were a child?

My parents forced me to look after our pet rabbit. This included cleaning out its dirty cage every week - It was disgusting!

My parents forced me to have piano lessons. I hated it at the time, but now I'm grateful because playing the piano is my favourite way to relax.





Be bound to

- ***Be bound to*** means that you are **sure something will happen**. It can be used in the present tense in this way.
- In the past tense it means that something **was sure to happen**, and most likely that it did.

He's bound to pass the test.

I am bound to fail now that you've said that.

He was bound to win.

She was always bound to succeed.

We're bound to be late if you keep doing that.





Be likely/unlikely to

- If something *is likely to* happen you think it **will probably** happen. *Unlikely to* means that something **probably won't** happen.
- We can use *unlikely to* or *not likely to*.

Positive	Negative
He is likely to win.	He's unlikely to win.
They're likely to be late, they often are.	They're not likely to be late, they almost never are.
It is likely to rain if you plan a picnic outside.	I am unlikely to pass my driving test the first time.
We are likely to be a bit late – sorry.	It's not likely that she'll bake something, she's a terrible cook.



Be likely to

- We can also use ***be likely to*** when we **make comparisons** based on **probability**.
- We often use the words ***more*** or ***less***.



Young people in the USA **are more likely to** rent than own a home.

It **is less likely to** rain in Spain in summer than in the UK.





May well and *can't imagine*

- *May well* means that you think something **probably will happen**.
- *Can't imagine* means that you think something **probably won't happen**.

May well	Can't imagine
She may well come, she said she was thinking about it.	I can't imagine they would hire him – he has no experience.
They may well buy a new car, theirs is old.	I can't imagine he'll get a brand new car, he's only 17.
John may well apply for that job, he's had his eye on it.	I can't imagine Hubert will apply for the job, he hates responsibility.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with words from the previous pages.

1. She _____ well pass if she manages to concentrate.
2. It's _____ to snow in Canada in the winter, there's no doubt.
3. They are not _____ to want to come again if you treat them like that.
4. I _____ imagine why she would speak to you in that tone.
5. Peter is _____ to take the job if they offer it, it sounds like something he'd enjoy.





Complete the sentences

**Complete the sentences below and then compare your ideas with the rest of the class or your teacher. Do you all agree?
How have these perceptions changed in the last 50 years?**

1. Boys are more likely to...

2. Girls are more likely to...

3. Men are more likely to...

4. Women are more likely to...



About you

Use the phrases below to talk about your own future.
What is bound to happen? What are you likely to do?



bound to

likely/unlikely

may well

can't imagine



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Activity p. 7

1. must, 2. don't have to, 3. mustn't, 4. can't, 5. must/have to

Activity p. 14

Take any appropriate answers

Activity p. 22

1. may, 2. bound, 3. likely, 4. can't, 5. likely





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. Within the next 50 years, people are bound to...
2. Women are more likely than men to...
3. When I was a child I was supposed to...
4. I think it is wrong to force someone to...
5. In the next decade, scientists may well discover...



Writing

Write a paragraph about what you think will happen in the next five years using as many of the expressions in the lesson that you can.

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