Modals

Statement	Negative
Can: poder	Can't, cannot
May: puede	May not
Will: future	Won't, will not
Shall: debería	Shan't, shall not
Must: deber	Mustn't, must not
Could: podía	Couldn't, could not
Might: podría	Mightn't, might not
Would	Wouldn't, would not
Should	Shouldn't, should not

All modal verbs have only one form, are followed by tge bare infinite and don't have an infinitive. We use modals with the passive voice

We form question with modal verbs: Modal + … + ?

May is more polite than could and could is more polite than can.

2. Semi-modals

Statement	Negative
Ought to	Ought not to
Have to	Don't have to
Need to	Don't need to, needn't

"Have to" and "need to" change for person and tense like normal verbs and have infinitives. Ought to doesn't change.

Use	Modal
Ability now or generally	Can
Ability in the past	Could
Asking for and giving advice	Should, ought to
Present or future obligation	Must, have to, need to
No present or future obligation	Don't have to, needn't to
Past obligation	Had to
No past obligation	Didn't have to, didn't need to
Present strong probability	Must, can't, couldn't
Present and future possibility	Should, ought to
Present and future possibility	Could, may, might

In spoken English, "have to" is more common than "must". "Must" is often used in written notices and instructions. "Mustn't" and "don't have to do" not mean the same.

We often use must, can't and couldn't for probability when we have some evidence for our opinion.