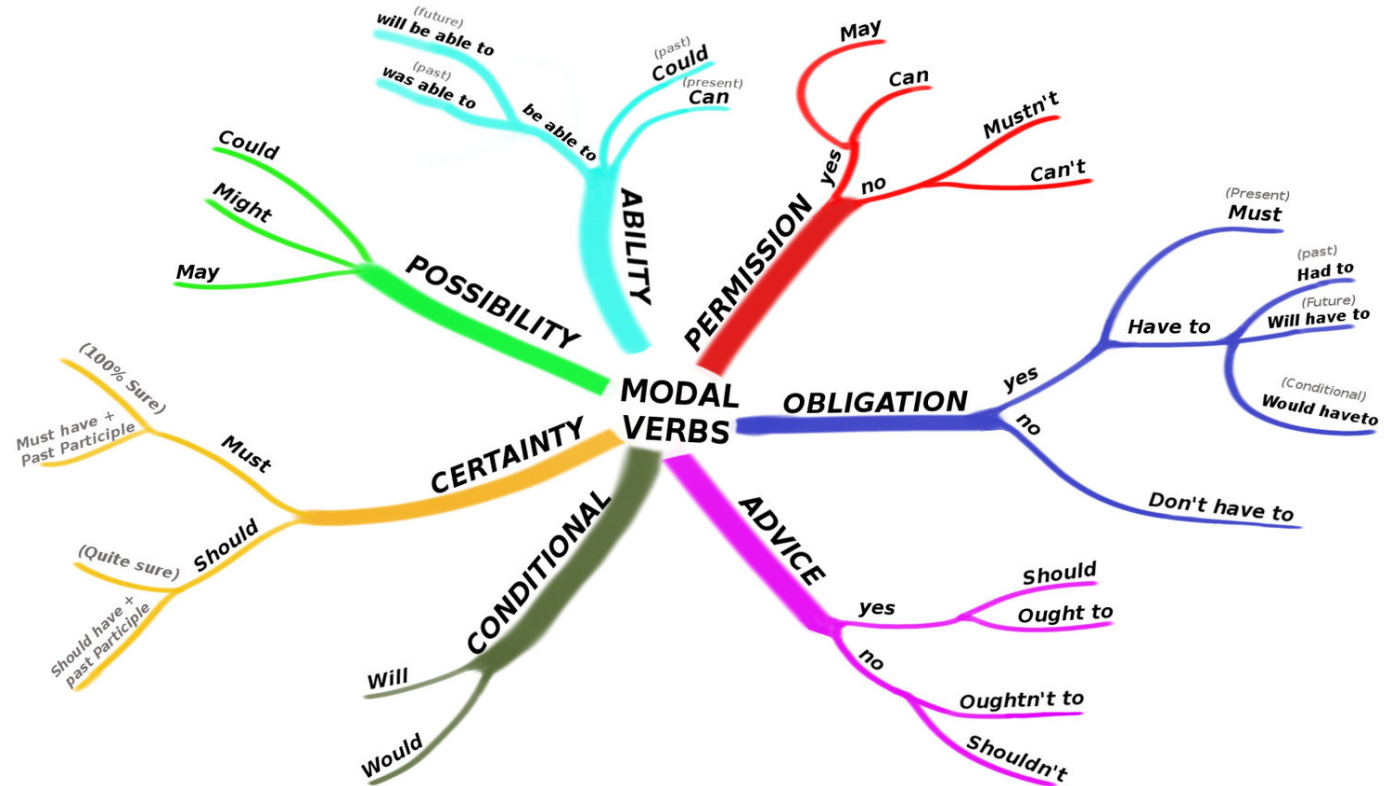


MODAL VERBS



Modal verbs

CAN
COULD

MAY
MIGHT

WILL
WOULD

SHOULD
SHALL

MUST
NEED

OUGHT TO

❖ Followed by the BASE FORM of the verb (=infinitive without “to”)

Ex. He might meet you tomorrow

He will meet me tomorrow

He must leave tomorrow

❖ Never take “-s” in III p.s.

Ex. She could be here at 6

❖ They do not need auxiliaries to make negative, interrogative forms and short answers

Ex. You shouldn't buy that car; it's too expensive and too old

Can he swim?/ Yes, he can

❖ They do not change. They do not have all tenses -> substitute verbs

Ex. I can't sing now because I have a bad headache, but tomorrow I think I will be able to sing

Verb choice depends on:

- **Communicative function**

Ability

CAN/COULD

Permission

CAN/COULD – MAY/MIGHT

Requests/ offerings

**CAN/COULD – MAY/MIGHT –
WILL/WOULD**

Possibility/ probability

CAN/COULD – MAY/MIGHT

Suggestions/advice

SHALL – SHOULD

- **Informal/ formal language**

Obligation/necessity/prohibition

MUST

Can you open the door, please?

Colloquial and informal

Could you bring me some chocolate, please?

Polite and formal

Would you give me your car, please?

Very polite and formal

Warnings, necessity, obligation



advice

obligation

recommendation

necessity

rules

prohibition

To express obligation and necessity **in THE PRESENT**

MUST

❖ **Self-imposed rules/ personal obligation** -> we have decided for ourselves something we must do

Ex. I must study hard if I want to pass the exam

You and I must get together for lunch soon

❖ **Instructions, orders** given by other people/institutions -> often in passive/ written form.

Ex. Exams must be written in ink.

❖ **Strong (heartfelt) recommendations** -> to emphasize a strong feeling about something

Ex. You must see that film because it's revealing!

AFFIRMATIVE

I	MUST	(GO)
YOU	MUST	(GO)
HE/SHE/IT	MUST	(GO)
WE	MUST	(GO)
YOU	MUST	(GO)
THEY	MUST	(GO)

NEGATIVE

I	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)
YOU	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)
HE/SHE/IT	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)
WE	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)
YOU	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)
THEY	MUSTN'T (MUST NOT)	(GO)

INTERROGATIVE

MUST	I	(GO) ?
MUST	YOU	(GO) ?
MUST	HE/SHE/IT	(GO) ?
MUST	WE	(GO) ?
MUST	YOU	(GO) ?
MUST	THEY	(GO) ?

Short answer

YES, I MUST

NO, YOU MUST NOT

HAVE TO

It is not a modal verb -> it follows regular forms to make negative, interrogative.

It replaces “must” in all tenses when the latter does not exist.

Use in present simple

- ❖ To express that something **is a rule (external rules or obligations)** -> when we are not in control of what is necessary or required

Ex. The taxi is here. We have to leave now.

We have to wear a uniform (it's a company rule)

- ❖ In **interrogative forms** it is more common to use “have to”

Ex. Do we have to buy batteries? (is it necessary?)

Must we answer all the questions? (In BrEn is less used, unless you want to emphasise that this is an obligation)

HAVE TO

- Present indicative > auxiliary DO/ DOES

Does she have to do all these tasks by tomorrow?

They don't have to spend all the weekend far from their house

For all other tenses, you can use only HAVE TO to express obligation, necessity

- Future > auxiliary WILL

I will have to ring you back

I won't have to wait for you

Will I have to skip lunch also tomorrow?

- Past simple > auxiliary DID

She had to stand all the time because there were no more chairs

We didn't have to wait for many hours

Did you have to queue at the entrance?

HAVE TO conjugated in present simple

Subject	Have to		Verb
I/You	have to		work
He/She/It	has		work
We/You/They	have to		work
Subject	Do not	Have to	Verb
I/You	do not	have to	work
He/She/It	does	have to	work
We/You/They	do not	have to	work
	Subject	Have to	Verb...?
Do	I/you	have to	work...?
Does	he/she/it	have to	work...?
Do	we/you/they	have to	work...?

Short answer

Yes, she does

No, she doesn't /does not

*It's free — you **don't have to** pay.
 Las time we **didn't have to** pay.*

Please Notice This



N.B. Auxiliary = do

Do we have to do this?

~~*Have we to do this?*~~

I don't have to go there.

~~*I haven't to go there.*~~

Keep in mind!

In the affirmative form the choice between “must” and “have to” depends on the context and point of view -> this is the reason why it is important to **understand the sense of the sentence** before choosing “must” or “have to”.

*She thinks she **must** improve her mark in English*

*Her teacher says she **has to** improve her mark in English if she wants to pass the exam*

In the first example the subject wants to improve her mark (moral obligation); in the second example it is an external imposition, i.e., it is the teacher who “obliges” the student to improve (external obligation).

Exercise. Choose the correct alternative

1. If your wireless doesn't work you **have to/ must** change the position your router.
2. Silvia **must/ has to** wear a uniform because she is a nurse.
3. **Do I have to/ Must I** have a second line for a broadband connection?
4. The car was very dirty so we **had to/ must** wash it.
5. The teacher said that if Caroline wants to improve, she **must/ has to** do a lot of exercise.
6. If you don't have a phone line you will **must/ have to** get one.
7. Darren **must/ had to** wear glasses when he was 6.
8. Is it true that you **have to/ must** set up a password?

Exercise. Choose the correct alternative

1. If your wireless doesn't work you **have to/ must** change the position your router.
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8. Is it true that you **have to/ must** set up a password?

MUSTN'T

Strong prohibition

I mustn't drink alcohol before going to the gym, otherwise I will feel sick.

The law says you mustn't drive without a driving licence.

MUSTN'T = it's not permitted (strong obligation)

DO/DOES NOT HAVE TO

Light prohibition = "it is not necessary to"

You don't have to turn on the central heating, it's automatic.

You don't have to study till midnight because tomorrow there is no school.

DO/DOES NOT HAVE TO = it is not necessary (advice, light obligation)

Watch out!

In the negative form the difference between “must” and “have to” is extremely marked:

MUSTN'T indicates a prohibition /

DO/DOES NOT HAVE TO indicates lack of necessity.

*You **mustn't** cross the road when the red light is showing.*

*She **doesn't have to** finish all her homework by today because tomorrow there is no school.*

Choose between **mustn't** or **don't/doesn't have to**

- a. My train leaves at 12.15. I _____ get up early.
- b. You _____ look through my wardrobe ever again!
- c. I can hear you very well. You _____ shout.
- d. The doctor said I _____ drink alcohol.
- e. You _____ tell anybody. Keep it to yourself.
- f. You _____ drop litter in the street.
- g. Just write a paragraph. It _____ be very long.
- h. I told Justin we'll be late, so you _____ phone him.
- i. Visitors to the zoo _____ feed the animals. It's forbidden.

Choose between **mustn't** or **don't/doesn't have to**

- a. My train leaves at 12.15. I DON'T HAVE TO get up early.
- b. You MUSTN'T look through my wardrobe ever again!
- c. I can hear you very well. You DON'T HAVE TO shout.
- d. The doctor said I MUSTN'T drink alcohol.
- e. You MUSTN'T tell anybody. Keep it to yourself.
- f. You MUSTN'T drop litter in the street.
- g. Just write a paragraph. It DOESN'T HAVE TO be very long.
- h. I told Justin we'll be late, so you DON'T HAVE TO phone him.
- i. Visitors to the zoo MUSTN'T feed the animals. It's forbidden.

Choose the right alternative

1. We *must/mustn't* use our mobile phones during classes
2. I *don't have to/mustn't* drink too much coffee before class otherwise I get nervous
3. She *mustn't/doesn't have to* drive without having a proper driving licence
4. You *mustn't/don't need to* post anything on social media when you are angry otherwise you can regret it
5. They don't need to/*mustn't* switch off the lights because their house has a smart system
6. Tomorrow is Sunday so you *mustn't/don't have to* finish your tasks

Choose the right alternative

1. We *must/mustn't* use our mobile phones during classes
2. I *don't have to/mustn't* drink too much coffee before class otherwise I get nervous
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6. Tomorrow is Sunday so you *mustn't/ don't have to* finish your tasks

To express advice/ warnings

SHOULD/ OUGHT TO

SHOULD + BASE FORM is used to form the **conditional tense** of “must”

- It is used to express if something is **advisable** -> it expresses an obligation less strongly than *must*

Ex. People *should* practice sport regularly if they want to be in good health.

Should I ask my boss for a pay rise?

- To convey **expectations**, when you have a strong feeling/ something is a good idea

Ex. You can phone Henry at work. He *should* be in the office by now.

People should learn to say “please”.

- SHOULD + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE -> something good/desirable did not happen, often as a way to express **regret**

Ex. I should not have told anyone about it.

To express advice/ warnings

SHOULD/ OUGHT NOT TO

SHOULDN'T + BASE FORM is the negative form

It is used to express that something is a bad idea

Ex. People *shouldn't* smoke indoors.

AFFERMATIVE

I SHOULD (GO)
 YOU SHOULD (GO)
 HE/SHE/IT SHOULD (GO)
 WE SHOULD (GO)
 YOU SHOULD (GO)
 THEY SHOULD (GO)

INTERROGATIVE

SHOULD I (GO) ?
 SHOULD YOU (GO) ?
 SHOULD HE/SHE/IT (GO) ?
 SHOULD WE (GO) ?
 SHOULD YOU (GO) ?
 SHOULD THEY (GO) ?

NEGATIVE

I SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)
 YOU SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)
 HE/SHE/IT SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)
 WE SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)
 YOU SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)
 THEY SHOULDN'T (SHOULD NOT) (GO)

Short answer

YES, I SHOULD

NO, YOU SHOULD NOT

AFFERMATIVE

I OUGHT (GO)
TO

YOU OUGHT (GO)
TO

HE/SHE/IT OUGHT (GO)
TO

WE OUGHT (GO)
TO

YOU OUGHT (GO)
TO

THEY OUGHT (GO)
TO

INTERROGATIVE

DO I OUGHT (GO) TO ?

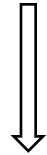
DO YOU OUGHT (GO) TO ?

DO HE/SHE/IT OUGHT (GO) TO ?

DO WE OUGHT (GO) TO ?

DO YOU OUGHT (GO) TO ?

DO THEY OUGHT (GO) TO ?



Ought to is very rarely used in questions

NEGATIVE

I OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

YOU OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

HE/SHE/IT OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

WE OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

YOU OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

THEY OUGHT NOT/ OUGHTN'T (GO)

To express permission or prohibition (negative form) -> **BE ALLOWED TO** (or *be allowed* + infinitive)

❖ Similar in meaning to the other permission modals. Used especially to **emphasize getting permission on a specific occasion.**

That day was the first time I was allowed to make my own breakfast

❖ It always substitutes other permission modals:

- with infinitives

*They asked **to be allowed to practise** here.*

- with gerunds (N.B. gerund. ≠ continuous)

*She resented **not being allowed to talk** to her sister*

after other modals

You might be allowed to go.

- in the perfect tenses

No one has been allowed to see the test results.

You can also use **NEED**/ **NEED TO** to express necessity:

Ex. Jim **need**/ **needs to** /has to leave soon.

It's free —you **needn't**/ **don't need to**/ don't have to pay.

Last time we **didn't need to** / didn't have to pay.

Especially in British English, you can find **need** not (needn't) + base form, instead of don't/doesn't need to.



MODAL VERB

Alla forma negativa, forme simili a NOT HAVE TO sono:

NEEDN'T

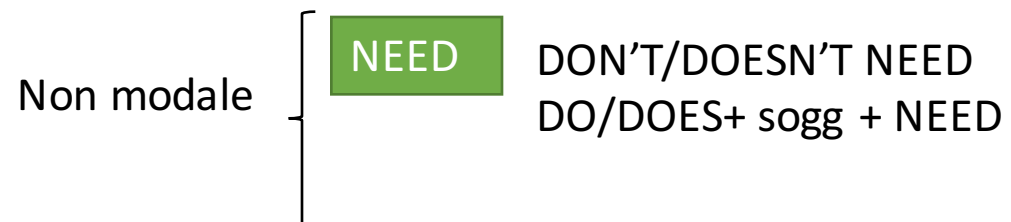
DON'T/DOESN'T NEED TO

Queste forme esprimono mancanza di necessita (something is not necessary).
Confronta la loro costruzione:

You needn't come to work if you don't feel well

You don't need to come to work if you don't feel well

Queste forme hanno lo stesso significato di “you don't have to come to work if you don't feel well”. L'unica differenza è che la forma <needn't> il verbo è usato come modale e non ha bisogno di ausiliare per formare la negativa



Modale

NEED

NEED + sogg ?
Sogg+ NEEDN'T
+VformaBase

“essere necessario che”

- Ha solo la forma al simple present
- È seguito da NEED + forma base (senza il “to”)
- Non prende mai la –s alla 3° pers.sing.

He needn't pay the phone bill until the 31st May
Non è necessario che paghi la bolletta fino al 31 maggio
You needn't get up so early in the morning
Non è necessario che ti alzi così presto al mattino
Need I tell him?
È necessario che glielo dica?

Non modale

NEED

DON'T/DOESN'T NEED
DO/DOES+ sogg + NEED ?

“aver bisogno di”

- Verbo con regolare paradigma (need –needed–nedeed)
- È seguito da un verbo all'infinito (TO + forma base)
- Prende la –s alla 3° pers.sing.

I need to buy some fruit for dinner.
Ho bisogno di comperare della frutta per cena.
Do you need any money?
Hai bisogno di soldi?
He doesn't need any help.
Non ha bisogno di aiuto.
We will need to show our passports

NEEDN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

You needn't have told him.

NOTE: I needn't have (done) and I didn't need to do are different.

I **needn't** have done something = *I did something that I thought was necessary, but now I know that it was not necessary.*

I needn't have told her. She already knew.

Non avrei dovuto dirglielo. Lo sapeva già.

If something was not necessary in the past, we use didn't need to or didn't have to:

I didn't need to (didn't have to) tell her but I felt doing it.

Non era necessario che glielo dicessi ma ho sentito di farlo.

NEED – verbo regolare

- Sempre seguito da
 - 1. oggetto o
 - 2. TO + forma base
- Ex. I need an umbrella
I need to wash my hands
- -s alla III p. sing.
 - Ausiliari per formare domande e negative
 - Ha tutti i tempi verbali

need to

Positive

I / You / We / You / They **need to** listen to the briefing.
He / She / It **needs to** listen to the briefing.

= subject + **need to / needs to** + infinitive

Negative

I / You / We / You / They **don't need to** attend the session. It's optional.
He / She / It **doesn't need to** attend the session. It's optional.

= subject + **don't / doesn't** + **need to** + infinitive

Questions

Short answers

Do I / you / we / you / they need to wear a hard hat in this area?	Yes, I / you / we / you / they do . No, I / you / we / you / they don't .
Does he / she / it need to wear a hard hat in this area?	Yes, he / she / it does . No, he / she / it doesn't .

= **Do / Does** + subject + **need to** + infinitive

NEED – modale

- Uso prevalente al presente
- Seguito dall'infinito senza il "to"; non regge compl. oggetto
Ex. She needn't queue
She needn't an umbrella
- Si utilizza come ausiliare per formare int. e neg.

POSITIVE

Sogg+ NEED + Vbase (senza "to")

She need pay now

NEGATIVE

Sogg+ NEEDN'T + Vbase

She needn't pay now

INTERROGATIVE

NEED + sogg +Vbase

Need she pay now?

Short answers

Yes, she need

No, she needn't

To express ability

To express ABILITY

In the PRESENT

CAN

CAN (present simple) **ability**

Ex. She *can* swim so she will have fun in the lake.

CAN'T (present simple) **inability**

Ex. I can't ski so I get bored every time.

To express ABILITY

CAN



Modal verb

BE ABLE TO + BASE FORM



Regular verb

{
You are able
Are you able to ...?
You are not able to ...

Used to express:

✓ Ability/ inability of somebody/ something

Ex.

It's amazing! Some animals *can* sleep while standing up!

ABILITY (CAN)

It's amazing! Some animals *are able to* sleep while standing up!

ABILITY (BE ABLE TO)



difference

You *can* use this phone anywhere in the world

POSSIBILITY (CAN)

Affirmative	Negative		Interrogative
	Long Form	Short Form	
I can	I cannot	I can't	Can I?
You can	You cannot	You can't	Can you?
He can	He cannot	He can't	Can he?
She can	She cannot	She can't	Can she?
It can	It cannot	It can't	Can it?
We can	We cannot	We can't	Can we?
You can	You cannot	You can't	Can you?
They can	They cannot	They can't	Can they?

Short answers	Can you dance?	Yes, I can./No, I can't.
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To express ABILITY in THE PAST

COULD

COULD corresponds to the *past* of CAN when referring to ability.

Ex. I **could** ride a bike when I was 6 while my brother couldn't.

COULDN'T expresses inability in the past

Ex. Last week I caught a flu and I **couldn't** work till late in the night.

To express ABILITY in THE PAST

COULD

COULD corresponds to the *past* of CAN when referring to ability.

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COULDN'T expresses inability in the past

Ex. Last week I caught a flu and I **couldn't** work till late in the night.

You can use also the form WAS/ WERE ABLE TO

Ex. Last week I caught a flu and I **wasn't able to** work till late in the night

SUBJECT	COULD	VERB
I/You	could	work
He/She/It	could	work
We/You/They	could	work

Affirmative

SUBJECT	COULD + NOT	VERB
I/You	could not	work
He/She/It	could not	work
We/You/They	could not	work

Negative

COULD	SUBJECT	VERB	QUESTION MARK
Could	I/you	work	...?
Could	he/she/it	work	...?
Could	we/you/they	work	...?

Interrogative

Exercise. Choose the right option

1. Jeff is great in the kitchen. He **can/ couldn't** cook amazing meals!
2. Liza **can/ couldn't** cook at all when she was young.
3. Rob used to be a strong runner. He **cannot/ could** run a marathon in three hours.
4. Rob **couldn't/ cannot** run a marathon now because he gets very tired.
5. Sandra **isn't able to/ could** repair a car because she doesn't know anything about cars.
6. Sandra **couldn't/ will be able to** repair her car when she finishes her mechanics course.

Exercise. Choose the right option

1. Jeff is great in the kitchen. He can/ couldn't cook amazing meals!
2. Liza can/ couldn't cook at all when she was young.
3. Rob used to be a strong runner. He cannot/ could run a marathon in three hours.
4. Rob couldn't/ cannot run a marathon now because he gets very tired.
5. Sandra isn't able to/ could repair a car because she doesn't know anything about cars.
6. Sandra couldn't/ will be able to repair her car when she finishes her mechanics course.

	Use	Examples
can / can't	to say that somebody has the ability to do something in the present or future	I can speak English. Can you speak Japanese? I'm sorry, I can't come to your party tonight.
be able to	to say that somebody has the ability to do something <i>NOTE: can is more usual than be able to in the present. However, can only has a present and past form (could), so sometimes it is necessary to use be able to, for example in the present perfect or infinitive.</i>	Are you able to speak any foreign languages? I'm not able to come to the meeting tomorrow. I haven't been able to sleep lately. <i>(present perfect)</i> He would like to be able to sing. <i>(infinitive)</i>

	Use	Examples
could/ couldn't	<p>to say that somebody had the <u>general ability</u> to do something in the past.</p> <p>General ability means something that you can do any time you want after learning it, for example reading, swimming, etc.</p> <p>We often use could + see, hear, smell, taste, feel, remember, understand</p>	<p>My cousin could play the piano when she was five.</p> <p>My grandfather couldn't swim.</p> <p>I couldn't hear what she was saying.</p> <p>I could smell a fire.</p>
was able to couldn't managed to	<p>to say that somebody had the <u>ability to do something in a specific situation</u>, for example win a match, escape from a dangerous situation, lift something, etc.</p>	<p>We were able to win the match.</p> <p>I wasn't able to open the door.</p> <p>She couldn't find you at the party.</p> <p>Did she manage to find you?</p>

Complete the sentences below using 'could/couldn't' or 'was/were able to' + the verbs in brackets.

1. Benjamin Franklin _____ (speak) English and French.
2. I looked everywhere, but I _____ (find) the right street.
3. _____ (you/convince) her to go out with you?
4. Patricia used to be a professional dancer. She _____ (dance) really well.
5. We _____ (contact) you. Was your phone switched off?
6. At the end of the long meeting, we _____ (make) a decision.
7. _____ (you/hear) me last night? I was trying to be quiet.
8. My laptop wasn't working properly, but in the end I _____ (fix) it.

In which of the sentences above can you use the structure 'managed to'? Rewrite them.

**To express deduction, speculation,
probability, possibility**

MUST

To express you are **100% sure** something is true

Ex. You must be joking if you expect me to cook for you again.

MUST + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE for deductions about what has happened already

Ex. Someone must have taken the key because it isn't here.

CANNOT to express **impossibility** in the present (you are certain something is not true)

It expresses the opposite of MUST -> certain impossibility

Ex. It can't happen. It's impossible.

CAN

To express **certain possibility in the present**

Ex. You *can* choose either a university course or a vocational programme.

general truths

Ex. Bad weather *can* cause flight delays at any time

To express POSSIBILITY

in **THE FUTURE**

COULD

COULD corresponds to the *conditional* of CAN when referring to possibility.

It is used to express situations that are **possible but unlikely**.

Ex. The dog *could* be in the garden.

It *could* happen even if it seems unlikely.

(potrebbe accadere anche se sembra improbabile)

I *could* do it if I wanted to -> **Il conditional!**

(potrei farlo se volessi)

COULDN'T expresses **likely impossibility**.

Ex. I *couldn't* do it: it's too horrible.

(non potrei farlo: è tremendo)

To express POSSIBILITY

in THE PAST

COULD

COULD corresponds also to the *past* of CAN.

Ex. She looked for her mobile phone so she **could** call a taxi.

COULDN'T expresses impossibility in the past

Ex. In the past even if you had a mobile phone you **couldn't** use it in the countryside because there was no signal.

Choose the right option

1. That's impossible, dogs *can't/could* fly!
2. Today she is lucky because she *can/couldn't* choose the job she wants to do.
3. This *can't/could* be the answer, it's illogical!
4. I've no idea where Jane is, she *can/couldn't* be everywhere.
5. Helen *couldn't/could* do that horrible thing, she is a sensible person.
6. Your wallet is not here, it *cannot/could* be at home.
7. This *could/can't* be the house. It's the wrong number.
8. This bill *can/can't* be right. There's a mistake somewhere.

Let's revise

Deductions -> 100% sure

MUST (positive deduction) -> something is certainly true.

Ex. The door is open so Michael must be home.

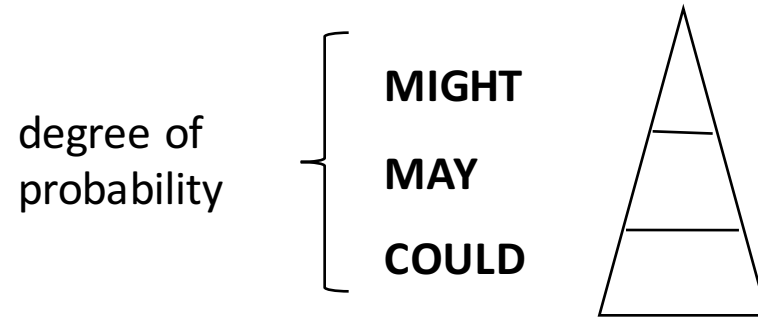
CAN'T (negative deduction) -> something is certainly not true.

Ex. The police said he attacked at 7pm but it can't be true because he was with me at that time.

Probability/ possibility

COULD/ MAY /MIGHT

“Might” is the conditional of “may”



Ex. There *could* be life in other planets. (possible but not likely -> average possibility)

The manager *may* be in a meeting. I'll check for you. (low possibility)

If we wait after Christmas, the prices *might* be cheaper. (remote possibility)

it is possible that something is true or not true

MAY
MIGHT

To express possibility/ impossibility

MAY

- **Low possibility** in the present/future
- **Personal opinion** (I am doubtful that something will happen depending on what I know)

Some problems may arise

Possono/potrebbero sorgere alcuni problemi

Rebecca may lend you her car

R. Potrebbe prestarti la sua macchina

(I think this is highly improbable because I know she is very possessive/jelalous)

MIGHT

- **Remote possibility** that something will happen
- **Personal opinion** with strong doubt

He might help her, even if he doesn't like her

Potrebbe aiutarla, anche se non le piace

The bus might be on time today, even if it's Monday

L'autobus potrebbe essere in orario oggi, anche se è lunedì

(I am extremely doubtful because I know there is a lot of traffic on Mondays)

MAY
MIGHT

To express possibility/ impossibility

MAY

- Low possibility in the present/future
- Personal opinion

Some problems may arise

Possono/potrebbero sorgere alcuni problemi

MIGHT

Remote possibility that something will happen

- Personal opinion with strong doubt

He might help her, even if he doesn't like her

Potrebbe aiutarla, anche se non le piace

MAY NOT

I may not do it, sorry; I have other plans

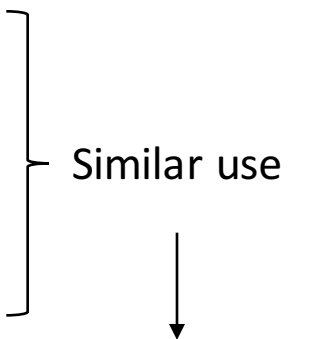
MIGHT NOT

It might not happen: I don't know

Tom might not get angry today

Oggi Tom potrebbe non arrabbiarsi

(I have strong doubts because I know Tom frequently gets angry)

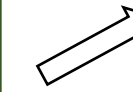
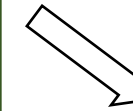


It is possible
BUT not
very likely

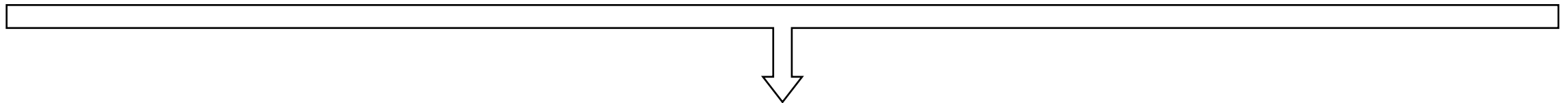


⇒ Low possibility

⇒ Remote possibility



Almost definite
impossibility



Differently from COULD, with MAY/MIGHT the subject expresses a **personal opinion** – based on his/her knowledge – on the definite/remote possibility that something will or won't happen

SHOULD/ SHOULD NOT

To say that we expect or don't expect something to happen or to be different.

Ex. If we leave now, we should get there on time.



*The difference is that we add an element of **expectation***

Choose the best option

1. Look at those clouds. It *can/might/may not* rain
2. This is impossible! It *must/may not/can't* be the answer
3. You *might not/can't/may* realize it, but this is very important to me.
4. I suppose it's possible. I *might/cannot/must* come to your party
5. We are not sure but we *might/must/couldn't* go to Prague for Christmas holidays
6. I'm not sure. I *mustn't/may not/cannot* be able to get there in time
7. A. Where is Pamela? / B. try room 5, she *might/mustn't/couldn't* be teaching
8. Careful! You *must/might/can't* fall off!

Choose the best option

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8. Careful! You must/might/can't fall off!

5 Rewrite the sentences below using *must*, *can't*, *could* or *might*.

- 1 I'm sure this design is by Armani.
This design must be by Armani.
- 2 Alessi is definitely one of the most influential design companies of all time.
- 3 I'm sure this painting is not by da Vinci.
- 4 Maybe this painting is by Picasso, but I'm not sure.
- 5 Not many people are attending the exhibition. I'm sure they aren't promoting it very well.
- 6 This product looks dangerous to me.
- 7 People are not sure if it is a Starck design.
- 8 I'm sure that designer is working very hard. I've seen a lot of her designs.

2. Alessi **must** be one of the most influential design companies of all times.
3. This painting **cannot** be by Da Vinci
4. This painting **might/could** be by Picasso.
5. They **can't** be promoting it very well.
6. This product **might/could** be dangerous.
7. People think it **might/could** be a Starck design.
8. That designer **must** be working very hard.

Keep in mind!

It cannot be true = I am certain it is not true

It might/ may/ could be true = I think it is possibly true

It must be true = I'm certain it is true

To express permission, offers

Permission

Formality check

	Asking permission	Giving permission	Refusing permission
Informal	Can I use your laptop?	Yes, you can.	No, you can't/cannot. No, I am sorry.
Formal/ polite	Could I ask a question? May I make a suggestion? Might I interrupt you for a moment?	Yes, you can. Yes, you may. Yes, of course.	No, you could not. No, I am sorry. No, I am afraid not.

Exercise. Choose the correct alternative

A. Good morning, this is Mrs Britney from car insurance. **Can/could** I speak with Mr. Moore?

B. This is Mr. Moore.

A. Hello Mr. Moore, **may/ can** I ask you some questions about your house insurance?

B. I'm sorry, I'm rather busy at the moment.

A. Well, **can/may** I call you later?

B. No, I am afraid you **may not/ might not**.

Offers

Most used	CAN	Can you help me with these bags?	In most situations
Neutral	WILL	Will you give me a hand with this?	If we are not sure the listener will accept
	SHALL	Shall we help her?	
	SHALL	Shall I answer the phone for you?	When you offer to do something
More formal and polite	COULD	Excuse me, could you help me fix this?	If we are not sure the listener will like the suggestion.
	WOULD	Would you sign this form?	
	WOULD YOU LIKE	Would you like another chocolate?	Polite offer

Exercise. Complete with the correct modal to express offers and suggestions

A. Alice, _____ you help me with this present?

B. Ok, but there's no wrapping paper. I _____ get some next time I go out.

A. Actually, there is some in the kitchen. _____ we use that?

A. All right, Mrs. Pierce, _____ you put your card in the reader, please? Thanks. Now, _____ you type your PIN, please?

B. _____ you be able to give me the cash in twenty-pound notes?

A. Yes, of course.

Exercise. Complete with the correct modal to express offers and suggestions

A. Alice, CAN/COULD/WILL you help me with this present?

B. Ok, but there's no wrapping paper. I COULD/ WILL get some next time I go out.

A. Actually, there is some in the kitchen. SHALL/ COULD we use that?

A. All right, Mrs. Pierce, COULD/ WOULD you put your card in the reader, please? Thanks. Now, COULD/WOULD you type your PIN, please?

B. WILL you be able to give me the cash in twenty-pound notes?

A. Yes, of course.