



MODALS SEMI MODALS

(Auxiliary Verbs)



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What are They ?

We use Modal verbs to talk about an ability / a duty / a need / a necessity / wanting.

will

can

may

might

shall

would

have to

could

should

ought to

must

have got to

MODALS



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What is special about them?

MODALS

Modal verbs behave very differently from normal verbs.

Here are some important differences:



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- Modal verbs are always followed by a verb in its base form.

EXAMPLES:

He can *speak* Chinese.

Compare: I speak Chinese.

He *speaks* Chinese

You may *take* the book to school.

She may *take* the book to school.

Compare: You *take* the books to school.

She *takes* the books to school.





- Modal verbs do not take "-s" in the third person in the present simple.

EXAMPLES:

- He *speaks* Chinese.
- He can *speak* Chinese.
(NOT- *He cans speak...*)
- She *eats* a sandwich at 9:30
- She may *eat* a sandwich at 9:30.



- You use "not" to make modal verbs negative, even in Simple Present and Simple Past.
(We don't use the helping verb "do" or "did")

EXAMPLES:

He should not *be* late.

They might not *come* to the party.

Compare: I don't like to be late.

I can not *eat* any more cakes.

I don't *eat* carrot cakes.

- Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.

EXAMPLES:

He will can go with us.

WRONG

She must studied very hard.

WRONG



Modal Verbs & their substitutes

Many modal verbs cannot be used in all of the English tenses. That's why we need to know their meaning and the substitute for these modal verbs.

MODALS



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will- will not - won't

- We use this modal to speak about future actions that we are sure/ convinced about.

Ex: Today is Tuesday. Tomorrow **will be** Wednesday.

= I know it because this is a known fact.

Ex: We **will not be** in the office tomorrow.

= I know it because he is going on vacation.

WILL



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would - wouldn't

- Past of will.
- For polite Request for permission.
- To talk about hypotheses (when we imagine something).

Ex: He said that he **wouldn't** come to attend the class.

Ex: **Would** you help me to solve this question ?

Ex: He **would** come tomorrow to meet me, yes or no ?

WOULD



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We use this modal to express:

- General ability/ disability.
- Possibility / impossibility.
- Opportunity.
- Asking for permission.
- Request(informal).

CAN



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can

Ex: I **can** walk.

= I have the general ability to do the action of walking.

Ex: I **can't** hear you, it is too noisy.

=I don't have the ability to hear what you are saying because of the noise.

Ex: I have some free time. I **can** help her now.

=I have the opportunity to help her.

Ex: I **can't** help her now because I don't have any time.

=I don't have the opportunity to help her.

CAN



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could

- In the past, can changes to could and shows more humble request.

Ex: He **could** speak only Hindi when he was a kid.

Ex: He **couldn't** speak to his neighbor who speaks only English.

Ex: Could I have your name to write in form ?

COULD



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may

- Future possibility.
- Get permission.
- To wish someone.

Ex: I **may** choose to wear the red dress to the party.

=I have two dresses. There is a chance that I will choose to wear the red dress and not the blue one.

MAY



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may

Ex: Today, he **may** come on time.

=Although usually he comes late, there is a possibility that today he will come on time.

Ex: **May** I come to visit you at 5 o'clock?

=I want to come to you but I'm not sure that you want me to come/that you will be at home/that you will let me enter .

Ex: You **may** take only one candy.

=Although there are more candies, I permit you to take only one of them!

MAY



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- Most used for possibility.
- To make suggestions or requests.

Ex: We ~~may~~ come on time, but if you miss the bus, we **might** be late.

=I plan to come on time and this is why I want to catch the 7:15 bus.

If I catch the 7:30 bus, I can come on time or not, I'm not sure.

Ex: If you advertise on the Internet you ~~might~~ get a lot of spam to your e-mail box.

=Although you don't want to get spam, there's a risk that you will get it.

MIGHT



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- An advice or suggestion.

Ex: If you want to be a champion you **should** practice every day.

=You don't have to practice but then, you will not get better.

Ex: When you make a cheese cake, you **should** first check that you have cheese.

=or else, it will not be a cheese cake.

SHOULD



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must - mustn't

- very strong advice/ obligation.
- things you're not allowed to do.

Ex: She is sick. She has high fever. She **must** take a pill.

= very strong advice/ obligation.

Ex: You **mustn't** ride your bike without a helmet!

= you're not allowed to do.

MUST



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SEMI MODALS



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have / has to / had to / will have to

- It is necessary
- Shows obligation and giving advice.

have to/has to –in the present.

had to – in the past.

will have to – in the future.

HAS TO



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have / has to / had to / will have to

Ex: I **have to** clean my room.

=My mother forces me to do it.

Ex: She **has to** finish the test before the bell rings.

=After the bell rings, you can't go on answering the questions.

Ex: Gail Devers **had to** take radiation therapy for her decease.

=to get well.

Ex: At the end of the 8th grade we **will have to** leave our school.

=and go to high school.

HAD TO



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don't / doesn't have to

- It isn't necessary.

Ex: I **don't have to** learn Hindi.
=because you already know.

HAVE TO



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ought to / be supposed to / be allowed to

OUGHT TO

- ought to = Obligation / Duty
- be supposed to = we expect him/her to
- be allowed to = permission someone will let/permit him do it.



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ought to / be supposed to / be allowed to

Ex: You **ought** to follow govt. rules during Covid.

Ex: The teacher **is supposed to** come on time so get ready for tests and assignments.

Ex: On Friday, the students in our school don't **have to** wear the school uniform. They are **allowed to** wear any color they want.
=They **are permitted to** / They **can** even wear a pink shirt with yellow stripes.

SUPPOSED TO



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able to / unable to

ABLE TO

- **able to** shows an ability.

Ex: I don't know when I will be ready. I **will be able to** give you an answer later.

Ex: Is he **able to** do it? Yes, he knows how to do it and has time to do it.

=Can he do it?



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used to

- **used to** shows past habit.

Ex: I used to play cricket in my childhood.

Ex: I never used to smoke.

Ex: He often used to come at my home in summer holidays.

USED TO



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dare to

- **dare to** is used for challenges or to encourage someone to be courageous.

Ex: How you dare to slap me.

Ex: I dare to go with you in the late night.

DARE TO



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need

- It shows necessity.

Ex: I need money to help poor.

Ex: I need to go because it's already too late.

NEED



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