

## MODAL VERBS

CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT, WILL, WOULD, SHALL, SHOULD, OUGHT TO.

They are known as modal auxiliary verbs because they »help« another verb.

Modal verbs are used when we say that we expect things to happen, or events that are possible, necessary, impossible, improbable, or when we say that things did not happen, or that we're not sure whether they happened.

Examples:

- I can walk.
- I can't swim.
- I may come tomorrow if I have time.
- You must do your homework.

Book/146, 147, 148

### STRONG OBLIGATION

HAVE TO and MUST are used to express strong obligation.

Examples:

- I have to work hard.
- I must go home.

PAST FORM => HAD TO

- I had to work hard.

**MUST** is used to express an obligation that involves the speaker's opinion (the authority of the speaker). It's a personal obligation. It's associated with formal, written style.

- Students must write their answers in ink.

**HAVE TO** expresses a general obligation based on a law, or a rule, or is based on authority of another person. It's more objective.

- You have to go to work every day.

Must and have to are sometimes interchangeable but »have to« is used more often than »must«.

- I must go now.
- I have to go now.

THE NEGATIVES : MUSTN'T and DON'T HAVE TO

**MUSTN'T** expresses negative obligation (prohibition) so it's very important not to do it.

- You mustn't be late (or you'll be punished).

**DON'T HAVE TO** expresses the absence of the obligation; you can if you want to but it's not necessary.

- You don't have to tell me about her.

## MILD OBLIGATION

**SHOULD** and **OUGHT** (more formal) express mild obligation or advice. They are used to give an advice or to make a suggestion. They both express what, in the speaker's opinion, is the right or the best thing to do.

- You should be more careful.
- You ought to be more careful.

## PERMISSION

**CAN, MAY, BE ALLOWED TO**

- You can't have my dictionary because I'm using it.

## REQUESTS

**CAN, COULD, WILL, WOULD**

**CAN** : more familiar, used in informal situations

**COULD**: more formal

- Can you help me with my homework?
- Will you bring me some apples?

## OFFERS

**WILL SHALL, SHOULD**

**WILL**: ('I'll) expresses an intention, decision or offer made at the moment of speaking

- I'll bring you some coffee.

**SHALL**: used in question with the first person (I and we); it expresses an offer, a suggestion or a request for advice

- Shall I carry a bag for you?

**SHOULD**: used to make an informal suggestion

- What should we have for dinner?