**Modal auxiliary verbs of probability, present and future**

* Will: the most certain.
  + Used to predict a future action.
  + *I'll see you later.*
* **Must and can't**
  + Must is used to assert what we infer or conclude to be the most logical or rational interpretation of a situation. We do not have all the facts.
    - *You must be joking! I simply don't believe you.*
  + Can't: the negative of this use.
    - *Whose is this coat? It can't be Mary's. It's too small.*
* **Should**
  + It expresses what may reasonably be expected to happen.
    - Expectation means believing that things are or will be as we want them to be.
    - This use of should has the idea of if everything has gone according to plan.
      * *This homework shouldn't take you too long (if you've understood what you have to do).*
  + Should in this use has the idea that we want the action to happen.
    - It is not used to express negative or unpleasant ideas.
      * *You should pass the exam. You have worked hard.*
* **May and might**
  + May expresses the possibility that an event will happen or is happening.
    - *We may go to Greece this year. We haven't decided yet.*
  + Might is more tentative and slightly less certain than may.
    - *It might rain. Take your umbrella.*
* **Could**
  + Could has a similar meaning to might.
    - *You could be right. I'm not sure.*
  + Couldn't is not used to express a future possibility. The negative of could in this use is might not.
    - *You might not be right.*
  + Couldn't has a similar meaning to can't, only slightly weaker.
    - *She couldn't have a 10-year-old daughter! She's only 21 herself.*

bound to …

likely to …

**Other uses of modal auxiliary verbs and related verbs**

**🡪 Ability**

* **Can expresses ability**. The past is expressed by **could**.
  + *I can speak three languages.*

*I could swim when I was three.*

* Other forms are provided by **be able to**.
  + *I've never been able to understand her. Present Perfect*
  + *I would love to be able to drive. Infinitive.*
  + *Being able to drive jas transformed my life. –ing form*
  + *You will be able to walk again soon. Future*
* To express a fulfilled ability on one particular occasion in the past could is not used. Instead we use **was able to** or **managed to**.
  + *She was able to survive by …*
  + *The prisoner managed to escape …*

**🡪 Advice**

* **Should** and **ought** express mild obligation or advice. Should is much more common.
  + *You should go to bed. You look very tired.*
  + *You ought to take things easier.*
* We use **had better** to give strong advice, or to tell people what to do. There can be an element of threat.
  + *You had better get a haircut before the interivew.*
  + *I'm late. I had better get a move soon.*

The form is always past, but it refers to the immediate future.

**🡪 Obligation**

* **Must** express strong obligation. Other verb forms are provided by **have to**.
  + *You must try harder!*
  + *I had to work hard. Past Simple*
  + *You will have to … Future*
  + *She has never had to do a single … Present Perfect*
* **Must** express the opinion of the speaker.
  + I must get my hair cut.
* **Have to** expresses a general obligation based on a law or rule, or based on the authority of another person.
  + *Children have to go to school …*
  + *Mum says you have to tidy your room.*
* **Mustn't** expresses negative obligation. **Don't have to** expresses the absence of obligation.
  + *You mustn't steal.*
  + *You don't have to go to England if you want to learn English.*
* Related verbs:

to be required to to be supposed to need to

**🡪 Permission**

* **May, can** and **could** are used to ask for permission.
  + *May I ask you a question.*
  + *Can/Could I go home?*
* **May** is used to give permission, but it sounds very formal. Can and can't are more common.
  + *You can't stay up till midnight.*
* To talk about permission generally, or permission in the past, we use **can, could, be allowed to.**
  + *Children are allowed to do what they want these days.*
  + *I wasn't allowed/couldn't to go on my own …*
* Related verbs:

to be not permitted to

to allow sb sth

to let sb sth

**🡪 Willingness and refusal**

* **Will** expresses willingness**. Won't** expresses a refusal by either people or things. **Shall** is used in questions.
  + *I'll help you.*
  + *The car won't start.*
  + *Shall I give you a hand?*
* The past is expressed by **wouldn't**.
  + *My mum said she wouldn't give me any more money. Isn't she mean.*