

MODAL VERBS

Inglés

All the auxiliary verbs except be, do and have are called modals. Unlike other auxiliary verbs modals only exist in their helping form; they cannot act alone as the main verb in a sentence. The modal verbs express modality, ability, possibility, need or another condition. We use them for the future and the conditional.

As complementary verbs that are, modal verbs do not work without another verb. This other verb always follows the modal verb and is in the base form (the infinitive without "to"). The modal verbs are not conjugated and they have no time.



EXAMPLES



Possibilities
 It may rain.
 It may not rain.
 May it rain?
 Yes, it may.
 No, it may not.



Offers and Invitations
 I would like to go with you.
 I would not like to go with you.
 Would you like to go with me?
 Yes, I would.
 No, I wouldn't.



Suggestions
 Frank **should** smoke one a week.
 Frank **shouldn't** smoke, she will sick even more.
Shouldn't Frank smoke, she will sick even more?
 Yes, she should.
 No, she shouldn't.



abilities
 They can swim.
 They can't swim.
 Can they swim?
 Yes, they can.
 No, they can't.

1. What are the school rules?
2. What are the school rules?
3. What are the school rules?
4. What are the school rules?
5. What are the school rules?
6. What are the school rules?

Obligations
 You **have to** respect the school rules.
 You **haven't** to respect the school rules.
Have you to respect the school rules?
 Yes, I have.
 No, I haven't.



Permission and abilities in the past
 Hans **could** skate when he was six years.
 Hans **couldn't** skate when he was six years.
Could Hans skate when he was six years?
 Yes, he could.
 No, he couldn't.



Obligations and Prohibition
 We **must** recycle and take care our planet.
 We **must not** waste the water.
Must we recycle and take care the planet?
 Yes, we must.
 No, we must not.



| | USES | EXAMPLE |
|---------|--|---|
| CAN | General ability. Request. | They can control their own budgets . We can't fix it. Can I smoke here? Can you help me? |
| COULD | General ability in the past. Request. | Could I borrow your dictionary? Could you say it again more slowly ? We could try to fix it ourselves . I think we could have another Gulf War . He gave up his old job so he could work for us. |
| MAY | Asking for permission Possibility. | May I have another cup of coffee? China may become a major economic power. |
| SHOULD | To give advice, recommendation or suggestion. | You really should go to the new restaurant on Main Street. I think you should study for the test so that you don't fail. |
| WOULD | Used as a polite invitation or to offer. Describe a prediction (hypothetical situations). To not sound impolite when disagreeing with someone. | Would you like to go to the movies with me tonight? It would be nice to have a barbecue . I wouldn't agree with that. |
| HAVE TO | Shows us that the obligation comes from somebody else. It's a law or a rule and the speaker can't change it. | We have to complete this activity by Friday. In Britain you have to buy a TV license every year. |
| MUST | Shows us that the obligation comes from the speaker. It isn't a law or a rule. | I must memorize all of these rules about modal verbs. I must call my dad tonight. |



1 Match them.

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| 1. ¿Te gustaría bailar conmigo? | A. | I can help your mother. |
| 2. Yo puedo ayudar a tu mamá. | B. | Carlos can eat later. |
| 3. Carlos puede comer después. | C. | I should study more. |
| 4. Debes ser buen hijo | D. | You have to abide the rules of the school |
| 5. Yo debería estudiar más. | E. | You must be a good son |
| 6. Ustedes deben llamar a la policía. | F. | You must call the police. |
| 7. Debes cumplir las reglas del colegio. | G. | Would you like to dance with me? |

2 Pick the right Modals verb.

- I think you _____ wear that dress. It doesn't suit you. (don't have to - must - shouldn't)
- We didn't have to take our food to school. We went to the canteen. (had to - didn't have to - didn't need to)
- All children must fasten their seatbelts when travelling by car. (have to - should - must)
- You mustn't drink that. It's poison. (Must - should - mustn't)
- would I stay and help you or you can do it alone? (Should - Must - Would)
- You can not be very rich to go skiing nowadays. (must not - have not - can not)
- I can't go out now. I must do my homework, my mummy tells me. (should - have to - must)
- You mustn't use your flash inside the Museum, it's forbidden. (wouldn't - must - mustn't)
- We have to be cautious. We shouldn't try and cross the river now. (have to - should - shouldn't)

3 Choose the right modals verb in brackets, and then answer the questions.

MY BEST FRIENDS LIFE

I have many friends. But only two best friends. They are fond of dancing. They can (can/must) dance very well. They always make a scene. I will shortly tell you about one of them. She could (could/would) dance so well when she was little. She is 15 years old. She has danced for 10 years, but now she can't (can't/ shouldn't) do it. Because is not allowed to dance, because she has a problem with her legs. For the first time she danced. But then her legs started achin. Then she asked for advice to her mother. Mother sent her to doctor. And request her to really go. When she came to doctor she showed him her legs. The doctor prescribed her tablets. The Alesja asked him for permission to dance. Because she really needed to dance. The doctor said to her that that now she can't (can't/wouldn't) dance but in the future she might dance. Now she is okey and she can dance. The doctor gave her permission for that. We are very happy that his situation ended well.

1. How many friends does she have got? unspecified (many friends)
2. What can her best friends do? her best friends dance
3. Could she dance in this moment? No, she couldn't
4. Has she danced for twelve years? No, she hasn't dance for 12 years.
5. Could she dance in the future? She could dance in the future.

4 Imagine it is the year 3000. Describe how things are then.

- A. What people can/can't do; what they may wear.
- B. What education is like:
What students have/don't have to do, must/must not do, etc.
What teachers have/don't have to do, must/must not do, etc.
- C. The aspect of cities.
- D. Means of transport; cars, trains, planes, new means of transport (cars can fly)
- E. Jobs (workers have to...../don't have to.....; bosses have to../ don't have to.....). what offices or companies are like.
- F. What the weather may be like.
- G. Things that should be/shouldn't be different.

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- People will wear more extravagant clothes of many colors.
- Students can be very immersed in technology, they would no longer pay attention.
- Cities will be much cleaner with more technology, much more structured.
- The means of transport + I believe that some cars could fly, others will simply have more ornaments faster.
- People would work on social media, everyone would be on something on the internet.
- The weather would be very cold although some days it would be hot.