

MODAL VERBS

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



If **may** rain,
If **may not** rain.
May it rain?
Yes, it **may**.
No, it **may not**.

Posibility



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**.

offers and invitations



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**.

suggestions



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

abilities

1. Follow school rules and regulations
2. Follow directions
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
4. Walk quietly and do not disturb others
5. Be respectful for school and personal property
6. Walk and play in a safe manner

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**.

obligations



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**.

PERMISSION



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**.

obligations Prohibitions



	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, a recommendation or a 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 shouldn't 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 have to do my homework, my **mummy** tells me. (should - **have to** - must)
- You must 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 shouldn'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 this situation ended well.

1. How many friends does she have got? two best friends
2. What can her best friends do? dance very well
3. Could she dance in this moment? not, because is not allowed to dance
4. Has she danced for twelve years? not, has danced for ten years
5. Could she dance in the future? maybe, dance

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.

The world will change a lot, since human life will not be the same, technology will cover the whole world, the climate will be very hot due to pollution over the years.