

MODAL VERBS

OBLIGATION- NECESSITY

HAVE TO + INFINITIVE

Do you have to wear a uniform?

MUST + INFINITIVE

We must do our homework

NEED TO

I need to go to the bathroom

LACK OF OBLIGATION

DON'T HAVE TO / DON'T NEED TO + INFINITIVE

We don't have to wear a uniform

NEEDN'T + INFINITIVE

Peter needn't drive, he can cycle

DIDN'T NEED TO / DIDN'T HAVE TO

Joe didn't have to go to the meeting

NEEDN'T + HAVE + PP

The nurse needn't have stayed but she did

PROHIBITION

MUSTN'T + INFINITIVE

You mustn't be late
You mustn't eat in class

CAN'T+ INFINITIVE

You can't enter my room

DEDUCTION-CERTAINTY

CAN'T + INFINITIVE

He can't be here already he left 5 min. ago

CAN'T / COULDN'T + HAVE + PP

The postman couldn't have gone already its 8

MUST + INFINITIVE

They must be at home the lights are on

MUST + HAVE + PP

They must have been delayed, it's very late

ABILITY IN THE PRESENT

CAN / CAN'T + INFINITIVE

Can you play the piano?

ABILITY IN THE PAST

COULD / COULDN'T + INFINITIVE

Could you read when you were six?

My baby couldn't walk last year

WAS-WERE (NOT) ABLE TO + INFINITIVE

I was able to buy the tickets

HAVE / HAS / HAD BEEN ABLE TO + INFINITIVE

Martha has been able to travel

ABILITY IN THE FUTURE

WILL BE ABLE TO + INFINITIVE

Will you be able to climb when you are eighty?

ADVICE

SHOULD + INFINITIVE

Your dad should go to the doctor

OUGHT TO + INFINITIVE

Your dad ought to go to the doctor

HAD BETTER + INFINITIVE

You'd better go to the doctor

CRITICISM

SHOULD/SHOULDN'T + HAVE + PP

Carol should have stayed at home

OUGHT TO + HAVE + PP

Carol ought to have stayed at home

MODALS FOR REQUESTS

CAN / COULD + INFINITIVE

Can I go to the toilet, please?

MAY I + INFINITIVE

May I sit here?

MODALS FOR PERMISSION

CAN / CAN'T / COULD + INFINITIVE

You can use my phone

MAY / MIGHT + INFINITIVE

You may leave now

OTHER PERMISSION EXPRESSIONS

BE ALLOWED / NOT BE ALLOWED

Passengers are allowed to take hand luggage

WAS/WERE (NOT) ALLOWED

I wasn't allowed to go out after 11 at night when I was 10.

POSSIBILITY

MAY / MIGHT / COULD + INFINITIVE

Andy may leave early

CAN + INFINITIVE

You can learn English or Japanese

MAY / MIGHT / COULD + HAVE + PP

Paul may have left early