

*“You know more than you think you know, just as you know less than you want to know”
(Oscar Wilde)*

MODAL VERBS

1. CAN

Use	Examples
ability to do sth. in the present (substitute form: <u>to be able to</u>)	I can speak English.
permission to do sth. in the present (substitute form: <u>to be allowed to</u>)	Can I go to the cinema?
request	Can you wait a moment, please?
offer	I can lend you my car till tomorrow.
suggestion	Can we visit Grandma at the weekend?
possibility	It can get very hot in Arizona.

2. COULD

Use	Examples
ability to do sth. in the past (substitute form: to be able to)	I could speak English.
permission to do sth. in the past (substitute form: to be allowed to)	I could go to the cinema.
polite question *	Could I go to the cinema, please?
polite request *	Could you wait a moment, please?
polite offer *	I could lend you my car till tomorrow.
polite suggestion *	Could we visit Grandma at the weekend?
possibility *	It could get very hot in Montana.

* no past forms - future forms

3. BE ABLE TO

Use	Examples
when can cannot be used (e.g., future)	She will be able to pass the exam.
when can cannot be used (e.g. perfect tenses)	They have been able to complete the crossword.
specific example (not general ability) involving certain difficulty	Despite his handicap, he is able to drive a car.

4. MAY

Use	Examples
possibility	It may rain today.
permission to do sth. in the present (substitute form: to be allowed to)	May I go to the cinema?
polite suggestion	May I help you?

5. MIGHT

Use	Examples
possibility (less possible than may) *	It might rain today.
hesitant offer *	Might I help you?

6. MUST

Use	Examples
force, necessity	I must go to the supermarket today, the fridge is empty.
deductions	She got a 9 in Maths. She must be very happy. (She can't be sad)
<u>obligation (speaker's point of view)</u>	You must go to the dentist.
may / be allowed to when <i>must</i> sounds "too strong".	- Guests may not use the pool after 11pm. - Women aren't allowed to drive in some Arab countries.

7. MUSTN'T

Use	Examples
prohibition	You mustn't work on dad's computer.

8. HAVE TO (semi-modal)

Use	Examples
<u>Obligation (when it comes "from the outside")</u>	Everybody has to wear the safety belt.
Don't / doesn't have to = it is not obligatory	You don't have to help tomorrow. My mother is coming to help me.

9. NEEDN'T

Use	Examples
not necessary	<u>modal verb</u> : I needn't go to the supermarket, we're going to the restaurant tonight. <u>ordinary verb</u> : I don't need to go to the supermarket, we're going to the restaurant tonight.

10. SHOULD

Use	Examples
Advice	You should drive carefully in bad weather.
Opinions	You shouldn't visit María now. She has just come from hospital.

11. OUGHT TO

- Not used in Negative and Interrogative sentences

Use	Examples
Advice	You ought to drive carefully in bad weather.

12. WILL

Use	Examples
wish, request, demand, order (less polite than would)	Will you please shut the door?
prediction, assumption	I think it will rain on Friday.
Promise	I will stop smoking.
spontaneous decision	Can somebody drive me to the station? - I will .
Habits	She's strange, she 'll sit for hours without talking.

13. SHALL

Use	Examples
Suggestion (<u>instead of will in 1st person</u>)	Shall I carry your bag?

14. WOULD

Use	Examples
wish, request (more polite than will)	Would you shut the door, please?
habits in the past	Sometimes he would bring me some flowers.

PERFECT MODALS: (Modal + Present Perfect)

- **COULD HAVE + part.** : saying that something could have happened but didn't happen.
*"Peter was lucky. He **could have hurt** himself when he fell but he is ok now".*
- **COULDN'T/CAN'T HAVE + part.** : being certain that something was not possible in the past.
*"We had a really good holiday. It **couldn't have been** better".*
- **MUST HAVE + part.** : being certain that something has happened.
*"I have lost one of my gloves. I **must have dropped** it somewhere".*
- **MAY/MIGHT HAVE + part.** : possibility in the past
*"You **may/might have left** the bag in the shop".*
- **NEEDN'T HAVE + part.** : You did something that was not necessary.
*"You **needn't have brought** anything to my party".*
- **OUGHT TO/SHOULD HAVE + part.** : when you should have done something.
*"You missed a great party last night. You **should/ought to have come**".*
- **WOULD HAVE + part.** : imaginary situations in the past.
*"I **would have phoned** Marta, but I didn't have her number".*

1. Rewrite the sentences using the appropriate modal verb:

1. It's possible that Jane will visit Switzerland next year.

__Jane_____

2. I'm thinking about taking Spanish lessons.

__I_____

3. I'm sure they'll be home by now.

__They_____

4. James definitely isn't eighteen yet!

__James_____

5. It's possible the weather will be sunny tomorrow.

__The
weather_____

6. I'm sure that Mrs Smith didn't leave home.

__Mrs
Smith_____

7. Perhaps she's gone to stay with her mother.

__She_____

8. It's possible that Mr Smith committed a crime.

__Mr.
Smith_____

9. I'm certain that he buried something in the garden.

__He_____

10. Perhaps he won the lottery.

__He_____

11. I'm sure he bought a new car.

__He_____

12. Perhaps Mr Smith murdered his wife.

__Mr
Smith_____

13. I'm sure she's at home.

__She_____

14. I know that isn't Janet-She's in America.

__I know that_____

15. I'm sure she thinks I'm stupid.

__She thinks_____

16. I bet I look silly in this coat.

__I_____

17. They're always buying new cars. I'm certain they have a lot of money.

__They're always_____

18. I'm sure he's not a teacher. He's too well dressed.

__He_____

19. You're an architect? I'm sure that's an interesting job.

__You're an architect? _____

20. I'm sure you're not serious. I know you're joking.

__I'm sure_____

21. I'm sure he's got another woman. He keeps coming home late.

__He_____

22. This water is possibly dangerous.

__This
water_____

23. Politics is sometimes really boring.

__Politics_____

2. Rewrite the sentences using a modal verb:

1. It isn't necessary for you to take a jacket.
→ You
2. I advise you to see a dentist.
→ You
3. You aren't allowed to talk during the exam.
→ You
4. It's forbidden to park here.
→ You
5. I advise you to study harder.
→ You
6. He is obliged to go to the police station twice a week.
→ He
7. Tom knows how to speak Spanish.
→ Tom
8. He had permission to go to the party.
→ He
9. It isn't possible that that is our plane.
→ That
10. It isn't necessary to take a thick coat.
→ You
11. I wish I had paid for half of the meal, but I didn't.
→ I
12. It was wrong of Mary to tell Steve about us.
→ Mary
13. Perhaps Anita didn't get the text message.
→ Anita
14. It's possible that they went to the cinema.
→ They
15. It wasn't a good idea to ask the other couple to come with us.
→ You
16. I am certain you haven't seen John because he is on a trip.
→ You
17. It is possible that Jake is in his room.
→ Jake
18. Perhaps we will not see them at the weekend.
→ We
19. I don't know if I will go to the concert.
→ I
20. It is unnecessary for you to come.
→ You
21. I advise him to give up smoking.
→ He
22. Eating chewing-gum in the class is prohibited.
→ Students
23. There was an obligation to turn off the mobile phone.
→ We
24. I didn't have the ability to cook when I was younger.
→ I