

## MODALS AND SEMI-MODALS

MODAL	USES	EXAMPLES
can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. general ability in the present or future.</li> <li>b. Request (informal)</li> <li>c. Impossibility (negative only)</li> <li>d. Permission (informal)</li> </ul>	<p>I can speak Spanish. I can help you later.</p> <p>Can I use your car?</p> <p>You can't see the dentist now.</p> <p>You can take the car tomorrow.</p>
could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. general ability in the past.</li> <li>b. Possibility (not certain)</li> <li>c. Polite request</li> <li>d. Impossibility</li> <li>e. suggestion</li> </ul>	<p>She could swim well at the age of four.</p> <p>The keys could be in the car.</p> <p>Could I have a word with you?</p> <p>I couldn't open the window.</p> <p>You could get advice from your doctor.</p>
may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. future possibility</li> <li>b. negative possibility</li> <li>c. polite request (formal)</li> <li>d. permission (formal)</li> <li>e. prohibition</li> </ul>	<p>It may rain tomorrow.</p> <p>He may not arrive tonight.</p> <p>May I call you later?</p> <p>You may take the car.</p> <p>You may not smoke in the library.</p>
might	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. possibility</li> <li>b. negative possibility</li> <li>c. past form of may</li> </ul>	<p>It might rain tomorrow.</p> <p>Tom might not be available today.</p> <p>She said that our plans might work.</p>
will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. certainty, prediction</li> <li>b. willingness, spontaneous decision</li> <li>c. polite request</li> </ul>	<p>He will arrive at six o'clock.</p> <p>I'll answer the phone.</p> <p>Will you pass the sugar, please?</p>
would	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. polite request</li> <li>b. repeated past action</li> <li>c. past form of will</li> <li>d. expressing preference</li> </ul>	<p>Would you move your car, please?</p> <p>I would walk on the beach every morning.</p> <p>We wondered when he would join us.</p> <p>I would rather prefer tea.</p>
shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. polite question or offer of help</li> <li>b. future with I / we as subject (not common)</li> </ul>	<p>Shall I carry this bag?</p> <p>I shall (will) find a hotel when I get there.</p>
Should Ought to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. giving advice</li> <li>b. telling somebody that is right / wrong to do something</li> <li>c. polite suggestion when unsure of answer</li> <li>d. 90% certainty / prediction.</li> </ul>	<p>You should (ought to) see a doctor.</p> <p>You shouldn't lose your temper with people.</p> <p>Should I put the bags here?</p> <p>He should (ought to) do well in the exam.</p>
Must	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. obligation, future intention</li> <li>b. strong necessity</li> <li>c. almost certainty</li> <li>d. persuasion; strong recommendation</li> </ul>	<p>I must write a letter to my aunt.</p> <p>You must observe the speed limit.</p> <p>The lights are on. She must be at home.</p> <p>You must go and see the film.</p>
Mustn't	Prohibitions something forbidden	You mustn't smoke in the hospital.
Have/ has to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. obligation / necessity</li> <li>b. lack of necessity</li> <li>c. past necessity</li> <li>d. future necessity</li> </ul>	<p>We have to wear school uniforms.</p> <p>I don't have to pay this until September.</p> <p>He had to leave early</p>

		We will have to leave soon.
Needn't	Lack of necessity	You needn't come today if you don't want to.
Be able to	a. general ability (=can) b. specific past ability; managing to do something despite difficulty	He is able to dress himself. We will be able to visit you next week. We were able to find the house although we had no map.
<b>MODAL PERFECT</b>	<b>USES</b>	<b>EXAMPLES</b>
Must have + past participle	When we are certain about past actions or draw logical conclusions	Paul didn't answer my calls. He must have been out all day.
Must not have + past part. Can't have + past participle	When we are certain something did not happen.	He must not have heard about the earthquake (=can't have heard)
May/might /could have + past participle	When we are not sure because we do not actually know what happened in the past.	Paul is late for work. He may have missed the bus. He might have left his house late.
Could have + past participle	When we had the ability to do something in the past but we didn't do it.	I could have gone to the party but I didn't want to.
Should have + past participle	When expectations were not fulfilled.	He should have arrived by now, but he still isn't here.
	When sensible advice wasn't followed.	You should have checked the brakes on your car before starting out.
Should not have + past participle	To refer to a foolish past action.	You shouldn't have taken the car without asking.
Would have + past participle	When we were willing to do something, but we didn't do it.	I would have helped you, but I was away for the weekend.
Will have + past participle (Future perfect)	When we talk about an action that will be completed by some point in the future.	By this time next week, I will have finished all my exams.