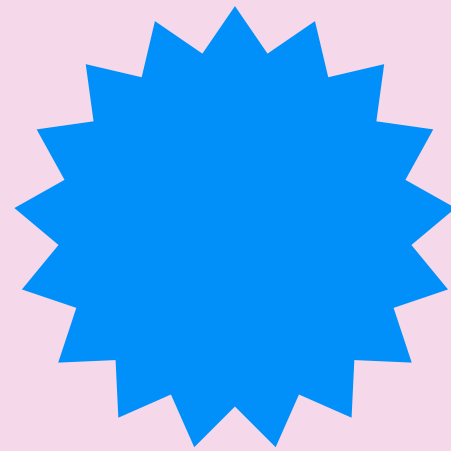




UNDERSTANDING MODAL VERBS

**ATTENTION!
PLEASE!**

CAN, COULD,
BE ABLE TO





CAN/ CAN'T

ability, **possibility**, **permission** or **request** in the present.

I **can/can't** speak three languages.

It **can** rain, the party will be ruined!

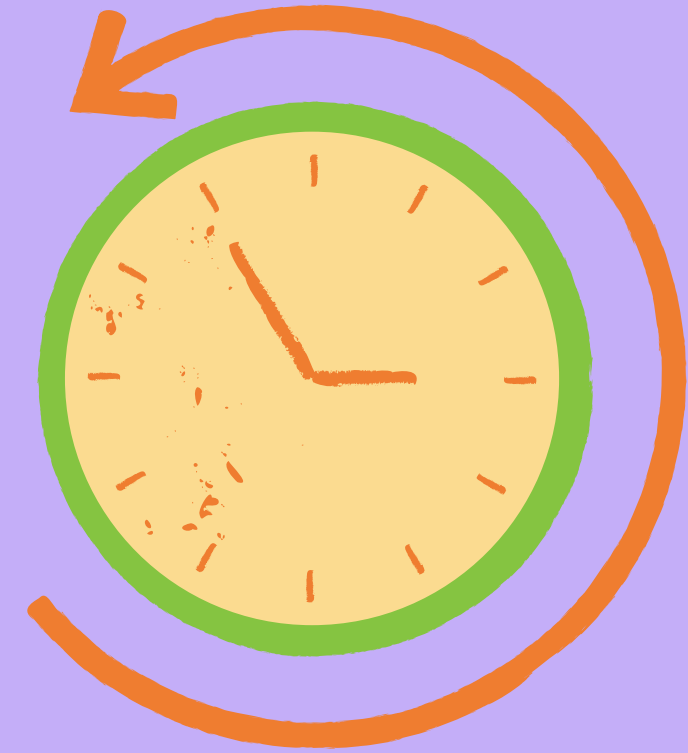
I **can't** go to the party. My parent's don't want me to go. **Can** you come over?

Can you help me with this?

COULD

general ability in the past
possibility (weaker)
permission or request (polite)

I **could/couldn't** read when I was five.
He **could** be at the library, let's find him!
Could we leave a little bit earlier today?
Could you open the window, please?



Anything
was
Possible





BE ABLE TO

only “be able to” can be used in the future to talk about ability.

ability in the past, present or future.
(*possible in all tenses*)

I was/wasn't able to get a table at the restaurant. (specific situation = managed to)

I will/won't be able to speak five languages by the time I turn 50.



SHOULD OUGHT TO (SEMI-MODALS)



giving **advice**/saying **it's the right thing** to do

You **should/ought to** study more.

You **shouldn't** study more, it's 11 pm!

You **ought not to** study more. It's too late!



ALL WE NEED IS
Love

NEED TO HAVE TO (SEMI-MODALS)

expressing **necessity**

You **have to** talk to the principal about that.

You **need to** talk to the principal about that.

**DON'T/
DIDN'T HAVE TO**

**NEEDN'T/
DIDN'T NEED TO**

expressing **lack of necessity**

You don't have to wait for me.

You didn't have to wait for me.

You don't need to wait for me.

You needn't wait for me.

You didn't need to wait for me.

**HELP
NEEDED ?**

NO

MANDATORY

MUST



obligation (personal) or general rule

I **must** attend the training tomorrow.
Cars **must** stop at red traffic lights.



MUST

strong recommendation

You **must** go to that new restaurant,
the food is brilliant!



MUSTN'T

prohibition

You **mustn't** smoke.



MUSTN'T VS. DON'T HAVE TO

☒ Option 1

☐ Option 2

☐ Option 3

OK

You **mustn't** eat anything before the blood test. (it's NOT allowed)

You **don't have to** sit the exam. (It's optional)



MUST AND CAN'T

deduction

GOSSIP

He **must** be rich, look at that house!
It's huge!

He **can't** live there, I know the owner
of that house and it's not him!



MAY, MIGHT

possibility (might: less likely)

I **may** pass the exam, it wasn't that difficult...

I **might** pass the exam, it was very hard!



MAY

permission (polite)

May I leave earlier?

-No, you **may not**.

May I come in?

-Yes, you **may**.

SPECIAL

OFFER



SUGGESTION



SHALL

offer or suggestion

Shall I carry your bag?

Shall I cook dinner for you?

Shall we start the class?

Shall we invite our friends for dinner?

WILL/WON'T



immediate decisions,
willingness, promises,
predictions, offers, requests.



I'll wash my car.

I won't put off work this year.

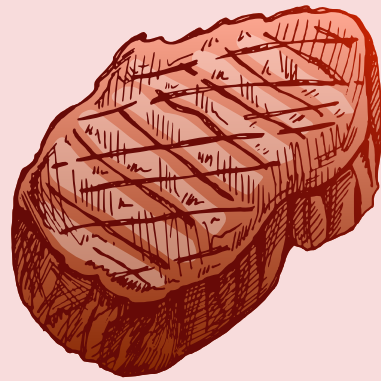
I'll love you forever./ I won't fail you.

I think he'll become a great singer.

I'll drive you home.

Will you help me with this homework?

WOULD/WOULDN'T



polite requests and offers
conditional sentences (hypothetical)
reported speech (will-would)

I'd like the salad.

Would you mind giving me the menu?

If I were you, I **would** order the steak.

If dogs had wings, they **would** be able to fly.

I **will** order the steak.

*He told me he **would** order the steak.*

MODAL PERFECTS

★★★★★
PERFECT!

Should have done.

May/might have done.

Must have done.

Could/couldn't have done.

Needn't have done.

Would have done.





SHOULD / SHOULDN'T / OUGHT (NOT) TO HAVE

It was a good idea, but you didn't do it.

It was a bad idea, but you did it.

I **should have gone** to the concert,
everyone enjoyed it!

I **shouldn't have gone** to the concert,
I'm so tired now!

MAY/MIGHT HAVE



**Possibility in the past/prediction in the past
(NOT SURE)**

**That boy may/might have stolen
the money!
He looks like a thief!**

MUST HAVE



Certainty in the past (you are SURE)

**That boy must have stolen the
money!
He is running away!**



CAN'T/COULDN'T HAVE

A certainty that something did NOT happen

That boy couldn't/can't have stolen
the money!
He was here with me the whole
time!

NEEDN'T HAVE



Lack of necessity in the past

You needn't have washed the dishes. I would've put them in the dishwasher.

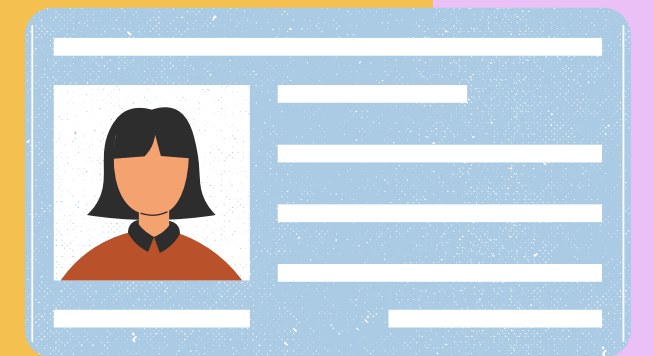




COULD HAVE

ability and possibility in the past, but you didn't do it

I could have gone to Paris last summer, but I lost my ID!





WOULD HAVE

It indicates a hypothetical situation and imaginary results in the past.

I didn't know she was ill!

I would have visited her!

I wouldn't have bothered her!



EXTRA

HAD BETTER

(semi-modal, had is usually 'd)

TO GIVE ADVICE OR A WARNING
("SERÁ MEJOR QUE..." / "MÁS VALE QUE...")

I'd better run or I'll miss the plane!

He'd better not arrive late! This
meeting is very important!

<https://www.baamboozle.com/game/1534284>

(further practice)

<https://www.englishexercises.org/makeagame/viewgame.asp?id=9331#a>

(further practice)