

## MODAL VERBS

MODAL	EXAMPLES	USES
<b>CAN</b>	He <b>can</b> find any street in London. You <b>can</b> take a taxi. <b>Can</b> you take me to Victoria's station?	<b>Ability</b> <b>Suggestion</b> <b>Request</b>
<b>BE ABLE TO</b>	He <b>is able to</b> find any street in London.	<b>Ability</b>
<b>CAN'T</b>	That story <b>can't</b> be true	<b>Certainty that something is impossible</b>
<b>COULD</b>	I <b>could</b> play the guitar when I was younger. <b>Could</b> you take me to Victoria's station?	<b>Ability</b> <b>Request (more formal than Can)</b>
<b>MAY</b>	It <b>may</b> be quicker to travel by train. <b>May</b> I open the window?	<b>Possibility</b> <b>Formal request</b>
<b>MIGHT</b>	It <b>might</b> be quicker to travel by train	<b>Possibility</b>
<b>MUST</b>	You <b>must</b> be back at 10 o'clock. Look at the snow. It <b>must</b> be cold outside.	<b>Obligation</b> <b>Certainty that something is true</b>
<b>HAVE TO</b>	You <b>have to</b> be back at 10 o'clock.	<b>Obligation</b>
<b>NEED TO</b>	You <b>need to</b> study a lot.	<b>Obligation</b>
<b>NEEDN'T</b>	You <b>needn't</b> have a university degree.	<b>Lack of obligation</b>
<b>DON'T HAVE TO</b>	You <b>don't have to</b> call a taxi.	<b>Lack of obligation</b>
<b>MUSTN'T</b>	You <b>musn't</b> drive without a licence.	<b>Prohibition</b>
<b>SHOULD</b>	You <b>should</b> drive more carefully.	<b>Opinion / Advice</b>
<b>OUGHT TO</b>	You <b>ought to</b> drive more carefully	<b>Opinion / Advice</b>
<b>BE ALLOWED TO</b>	<b>Are you allowed to</b> come back home that late?	<b>Permission</b>

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

- 1) No llevan -s en la tercera persona del singular del presente simple.
- 2) No necesitan -do o -does para formar la negativa ni la interrogativa.
- 3) Nunca llevan infinitivo con to detrás, excepto be able to, need to, have to y ought to.
- 4) No tienen infinitivo, participio ni tiempos compuestos.

NOTA: Los verbos have to y need to también se consideran "verbos semimodales" porque no cumplen todas las características propias de los verbos modales.

## PERFECT MODALS

MODALS	EXAMPLES	USES
MUST HAVE	The driver <b>must have</b> lost his way.	A certainty or logical conclusion about an event in the past.
MIGHT / MAY HAVE	She <b>might / may have</b> bought a new car.	A guess about something which happened in the past
COULD HAVE	You <b>could have</b> avoided that accident.	The ability to do something in the past, but which in the end was not done.
COULDN'T HAVE	He <b>couldn't have</b> known about the problem.	A certainty that something did not happen.
SHOULD HAVE	He <b>should have</b> listened to me. They should have won the competition.	Advice which was not followed in the past. Expectations which were not fulfilled in the past.
SHOULDN'T HAVE	You <b>shouldn't have</b> gone on foot.	Criticism that was given after an event.