



MODALS

WHICH ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MODALS AND VERBS?

	VERBS	MODALS
Singular / Plural	-S / -ES / -IES (He plays, We play)	NO variation (He must, We must)
Negative Form	Use of auxiliaries (don't, doesn't)	NO auxiliaries (I must, I mustn't)
Interrogative Form	Use of auxiliaries (do, does)	NO auxiliaries (Should you...?)
Place in the sentence	Bw the S and the O (You listen to music)	ALWAYS before base form (He may be at home)
Other forms: infinitive, participle, futur, -ing forms, complex tenses	GO: to go, gone, will go, going, has gone	They have NOT any of these forms



MODAL VERBS

- Can
- Be able to
- Can't

- Could

- May
- Might

- Would

*** **Be able to** and **Have to** are called semi-modals

- Must
- Have to



CAN

- I can speak English, because I lived in London.



ability

- Can you open your books?



request

- I can lend you my book if you need it.



possibility



BE ABLE TO

- My brother is able to play football very well



ability



COULD

- I could run very fast when I was a child.



past ability

- Could you help me, please?

polite request

- You could study and your results will improve.



polite suggestion

- Don't worry, you could win the lottery.



possibility



CAN'T

- You can't be Mark! He's got dark hair



*certainty that
something is impossible*



MAY

- It may rain next week



possibility

- May I pay with a credit card?



polite request



MIGHT

- She might win the gold medal



possibility



WOULD

- Would you open the door, please?



formal request

- Would you like some coffee?



offer



MUST

- You must arrive on time at school.



obligation

- I hear some noises inside. They must be at home.



*certainty that
something is true*



HAVE TO

- I have to stay at home before midnight.



*obligation,
necessity*



NEED TO

- I need to go to the market because I've anything to eat.



*obligation,
necessity*



NEEDN'T

- You needn't wake up early on Sundays



lack of obligation



DON'T HAVE TO

- You don't have to bring anything to the party



lack of obligation



MUSTN'T

- You mustn't smoke in this area.



prohibition



SHOULD

- You should try and give up smoking.



advice, opinion



OUGHT TO

- You ought to go to the doctor if you don't feel well.



advice, opinion



MODAL PERFECTS

- Modal Perfects refer to PAST or COMPLETED ACTIONS:
- You should go to the doctor to feel it better.
- You should have gone to the doctor.

Which of these sentences refer to the past?

What differences in terms of form can you see?



STRUCTURE

MODALS

Subject + modal + base form

MODAL PERFECTS

Subject + modal + have + past participle



MODAL PERFECTS

- Must have
- May have / might have
- Could have
- Couldn't have
- Would have
- Should have / ought to have
- Shouldn't have
- Needn't have



MUST HAVE

- She hasn't arrived yet. She must have been in a traffic jam.



*certainty that something
was true*



MAY HAVE / MIGHT HAVE

- She may / might have missed the bus



*a guess about a
past action*



COULD HAVE

- You could have studied more for this exam.

*ability to have done
something but in
fact did not*



COULDN'T HAVE

- He couldn't have killed him because he was in the hospital.



*certainty that
something did
not happen*



WOULD HAVE

- I would have gone to the beach, but I didn't feel very well



*willingness to have
done something
but in fact
could not*



SHOULD HAVE / OUGHT TO HAVE

- You should have told me that they splitted up.



*criticism
or regret after
an event*



SHOULDN'T HAVE

- You shouldn't have insulted her!



*criticism
after an event*



NEEDN'T HAVE

- You needn't have brought anything to the party.



*an unnecessary
action in the
past*

