

## Modal Verbs Example

MODALS					
	Form	Function	Affirm	Negat	Interrog
CAN	+ BASE FORM OF VERB	Permission, Possibility, Ability	I can swim	I cannot swim /I can't swim	Can I swim?
COULD		Ability in the past/ formal permission	I could read when I was five.	I couldn't drive when I was fifteen	Could you answer these questions, please?
MUST		Obligation	You must do your homework.	---	Must I do my homework?
MUSTN'T		Prohibition	----	You mustn't smoke in here	-----
HAVE TO		Obligation	I have to finish my project		What do you have to do this evening?
DON'T HAVE TO		Absence of obligation		We don't have to wear a uniform	
SHOULD		Giving Advice	You should study harder	You shouldn't watch so much TV	Should I do exercise to get fit?
MAY		Possibility/ permission ¿?	It may rain this afternoon	They may not arrive in time.	May I open the window? It's hot
MIGHT		Probability	This might be one of Da vinci's painting	He mightn't buy a ticket for the concert	Might you call me, if you have any news?
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MODAL	EXAMPLES	USES
<b>CAN</b>	He <b>can</b> find any street in London. You <b>can</b> take a taxi. Can you take me to Victoria Station?	<i>Ability</i> <i>Suggestion</i> <i>Request</i>
<b>BE ABLE TO</b>	He <b>is able to</b> find any street in London.	<i>Ability</i>
<b>CAN'T</b>	That story <b>can't</b> be true.	<i>Certainty that something is impossible</i>
<b>COULD</b>	I <b>could</b> play tennis when I was younger. <b>Could</b> you take me to Victoria Station? You <b>could</b> take a taxi.	<i>Ability</i> <i>Request</i> <i>Suggestion</i>
<b>MAY</b>	It <b>may</b> be quicker to travel by train. <b>May</b> I come in?	<i>Possibility</i> <i>Formal request/ Permission</i>
<b>MIGHT</b>	It <b>might</b> be quicker to travel by train.	<i>Possibility</i>
<b>MUST</b>	You <b>must</b> be back at 10 o'clock. Look at the snow. It <b>must</b> be cold outside.	<i>Obligation</i> <i>Certainty that something is true.</i>
<b>HAVE TO</b>	You <b>have to</b> be back at 10 o'clock.	<i>Obligation</i>
<b>NEED TO</b>	You <b>need to</b> study a lot.	<i>Obligation.</i>
<b>NEEDN'T</b>	You <b>needn't</b> have a university degree.	<i>Lack of obligation.</i>
<b>MUSN'T</b>	You <b>mustn't</b> drive without a license.	<i>Prohibition</i>
<b>DON'T HAVE TO</b>	You <b>don't have to</b> call a taxi.	<i>Lack of obligation</i>
<b>SHOULD</b>	You <b>should</b> drive more carefully.	<i>Opinion/Advice</i>
<b>OUGHT TO</b>	You <b>ought to</b> drive more carefully.	<i>Opinion/Advice</i>