

MODALS

PROHIBITION

- **MUSTN'T**

PRESENT / FUTURE

You **mustn't** smoke in this building.

ADVICE / SUGGESTION / RECOMMENDATION

+ - **SHOULD**

PRESENT / FUTURE

He **should** read *Bristol Murder*.

He **shouldn't** read *Marca*.

PAST

He **should have read** *Bristol Murder*.

He **shouldn't have read** *Marca*.

POSSIBILITY/PROBABILITY

+ **COULD / MAY / MIGHT**

PRESENT / FUTURE

It **might rain** this afternoon.

It **may rain** this afternoon.

It **could rain** this afternoon.

PAST

It **might have rained** last night.

It **may have rained** last night.

It **could have rained** last night.

- **MAY NOT / MIGHT NOT**

PRESENT / FUTURE

It **might not rain** this afternoon.
It **may not rain** this afternoon.

PAST

It **might not have rained** last night.
It **may not have rained** last night.

COULD CANNOT BE USED IN THE NEGATIVE AS A MODAL OF
POSSIBILITY / PROBABILITY

DEDUCTION

- **CAN'T / COULDN'T**

PRESENT / FUTURE

It can't be John.	I am sure it isn't John.
It couldn't be John.	I am sure it isn't John.

PAST

It can't have been John.	I am sure it wasn't John.
It couldn't have been John.	I am sure it wasn't John.

+ **MUST**

PRESENT / FUTURE

It must be Dawn.	I am sure it is Dawn.
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PAST

It must have been Dawn.	I am sure it was Dawn.
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OBLIGATION

+ MUST / HAVE TO

PRESENT / FUTURE

I **must** work.
I **have to stay** in school until I'm 16.

Personal obligation.
External obligation / the law.

PAST

I **had to** work.
I **had to stay** in school until I was 16.

Personal obligation.
External obligation / the law.

- DON'T HAVE TO / DON'T NEED TO / NEEDN'T

PRESENT

You **don't have to come** to school.
You **don't need to come** to school.
You **needn't come** to school.



It is **NOT** necessary for you to come if you want to, fine, if you don't want to, fine.

ABILITY

+ - CAN / COULD / BE ABLE TO + INFINITIVE

PRESENT / FUTURE

I **can** play the piano.
I **am able to play** the piano.
He **has been able to** come.
I **will be able to** win.

I **can't** play the piano.
I **am not able to play** the piano.
He **has not been able to** come.
I **will not be able to** win.

PAST

I **could** swim when I was five.
I **was able to** swim when I was five.

I **couldn't** swim when I was five.
I **wasn't able to** swim when I was five.

PERMISSION

+ - CAN / COULD / MAY / BE ALLOWED TO + INFINITIVE

PRESENT / FUTURE

I **can** go to the dance.

I **may** go to the dance.

I will **be allowed to** go to the dance.

I **can't** go to the dance.

I **may not** go to the dance.

I won't **be allowed to** go to the dance.

PAST

I **could** go to the park on my own = by myself when I was five.

I **couldn't** go to the park on my own = by myself when I was five.

I **was allowed to** go to the park on my own = by myself when I was five.

I **wasn't allowed to** go to the park on my own = by myself when I was five.

Pattern:

MODAL + BARE INFINITIVE = PRESENT / FUTURE

MODAL + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE = PAST

Exception:

Modals of permission, ability and obligation.