Talk about ability, permission, necessity, advice, expectations ...

NOTES

CAN / BE ABLE TO

Can/be able to express possibility and ability.
Can/could have no infinitive or participle forms. So we use be able to in tenses where an infinitive or "perfect" form is required.
Ask the policeman over there. He should be able to help you.
Will I be able to travel to different planets in the future?

CAN / BE ALLOWED TO

Can/ be allowed to express permission. Be allowed to – a passive structure – is used when we talk about permission in tenses where the infinitive or a 'perfect form" is required. Not to be allowed to is related to prohibition.

In your opinion, will people be allowed to travel to any foreign country without a visa in the future?
You're not allowed to smoke in this restaurant.

MUST / HAVE TO

We use *must/have to* when we want to express obligation to do something. *Have to* can be used in any tense. It is always used in tenses where the infinitive or the participle are necessary. In British English *must* is related to the speaker's feelings of obligation and *have to* is used to express obligations that come from outside.
I must lose weight
We have to ask her if she needs anything.
I couldn't see you yesterday. I had to work late.
Have you ever had to phone your doctor late night?

SHOULD /OUGHT TO

Both modals are used to give advice or to express what is expected from someone.
In British English ought to is slightly stronger.
He ought to be punished.
You ought not to work so hard.
We should be at the airport before 6 a.m.

BE SUPPOSED TO

Be supposed to (as well as *should*) is used to talk about what people have the responsibility to do. The negative form – *not to be supposed to* is related to prohibition.
Students are supposed to be at school at 8:15 am.

PRACTICE

Kay and Evelyn are talking about the future:

K: Do you think I can / I'll be able to [1] speak many languages when I'm 18?
E: I think you're supposed to /you can [2] study hard to learn many foreign languages. You should / must [3] start studying other languages now. Anyway, do you think we'll be allowed to/ we'll have to [4] fly to other planets when we're older?
K: I'm sure we will. When we're 18 we're supposed to / we'll be allowed to [5] live on our own. By the way, I have to go now.
E: Can/Should [6] you help me with my homework?

Evelyn is talking to her cousin Clare:

E: Do you have to/ should you [7] go home now?
C: I really must/ I'm really supposed to [8] go now.
E: We must/ oughtn't to [9] do my maths homework before you go.
C: Can't/ Mustn't [10] you do it on your own?
E: No, I can't/ mustn't.[11] I'm bad at maths.

Gina and Kay's parents, Jake and Ellen went out for lunch:

E: You're allowed to/ must [12] work flexible hours, aren't you?
J: Yes, but I'm able/ supposed [13] to be at work between 10 am. and 3 pm. You're a doctor too, We must/can't [14] be available almost 24 hours a day.
E: But I don't have to/mustn't [15] take work home like you do. You ought to/can't [16] give more attention to our daughters.
J: I was thinking about our summer holidays. You should /'re able to [17] start buying new luggage and summer clothes,
E: Fantastic! We can/ 're supposed to [18] finally have fun together as a happy family.

Mr. office slave

I ought to /should [19] be crazy! I have to / 'm supposed to [20] be happy, aren't I? Now I ought to/ I can [21] go home any time I want. I'm the boss. Why should/ can't [22] I stay here? Why did I have to/ was I supposed to[23] forget where I put the key to this ball? I should/ could [24] have listened to my doctor.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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