

**READ AND STUDY**

**MODAL VERBS**

**What are modal verbs?**

They are **special verbs**. They are different from normal verbs like “work, play, visit...”. They give additional information about the **function** of the main verb that follows it. They have a great variety of **communicative functions**.

Here are some characteristics:

1. They never change their form. You can't add "s", "ed", "ing"...They form the negative with “not” and they form the interrogative by coming at the front of the subject. “Can you...?” “Should I...?”
2. They are always followed by an infinitive without "to" (base form)
3. They are used to indicate modality and allow speakers to express ability, possibility, advice, obligation, necessity, prohibition.

**COMPLETE THE USE OF EACH MODAL VERB ON THE LEFT COLUMN:**

**POSSIBILITY- ADVICE- LACK OF OBLIGATION- OBLIGATION AND NECESSITY- ABILITY- PROHIBITION**

USE	PRESENT/FUTURE	SYNONYMOUS EXPRESSIONS	PAST	EXAMPLES
(habilidad; expresar lo que sé o no sé hacer) =saber	CAN =saber	AM/IS/ARE ABLE TO=  soy/es/eres capaz de  e.g. I'm able to skate.	COULD	Can you speak English? I can play the saxo but I can't play the violin. My brother could swim when he was four.
(puede que algo ocurra o no) =poder	CAN MAY MIGHT = poder	IT'S POSSIBLE IT'S LIKELY Es posible  e.g. It's possible that it rains.		It may rain tomorrow. Might you come to see me?
(es obligatorio o necesario hacer algo) = deber/ tener que	MUST HAVE/HAS TO =deber, tener que	IT'S OBLIGATORY IT'S COMPULSORY IT'S NECESSARY  e.g. It's	HAD TO	Children have to go to school. You must study hard.

		<b>compulsory to</b> leave the mobile phone at home.		
(no está permitido o está prohibido hacer algo) =no debes/no puedes	<b>MUSTN'T</b> <b>CAN'T</b> =no deber, no poder	<b>IT'S FORBIDDEN</b> <b>IT'S NOT ALLOWED</b>  e.g. It's forbidden to eat in the library. You aren't allowed to park here.		You <b>mustn't</b> <b>walk</b> your dog in the grass.  Sorry, you <b>can't</b> <b>smoke</b> here.
(no es obligatorio hace algo) =no tienes que	<b>DON'T/DOESN'T</b> <b>HAVE TO</b> =no tienes que	<b>IT'S NOT</b> <b>NECESSARY</b>  e.g. It's not necessary to work until late.	<b>DIDN'T</b> <b>HAVE TO</b>	I <b>don't have to</b> work on Sunday.
(es una buena idea hacer algo, estaría bien) =deberías	<b>SHOULD</b> <b>OUGHT TO</b> =deberías	<b>IT'S A GOOD</b> <b>IDEA</b> <b>I ADVICE YOU</b>  e.g. It's a good idea that you stop smoking.		You <b>should</b> start doing exercise.  You <b>ought not</b> <b>to</b> drink so many fizzy drinks.