



# MODALS AND MODAL PERFECTS

Don't worry; it's very easy!!!

# MODAL VERBS

## □ CAN/CAN'T (saber/poder)

1. Ability  
(present)

I **can** speak two  
languages!!

3. Request

**Can** you drive  
me home?

4. Certainty that  
something is  
impossible

She **can't** pass  
the exam... She  
has no idea...

You **can** teach  
me on  
Saturdays.

2. Suggestion



**"Be able to"** (ser capaz de) can be used in  
other verbal tenses (*I have been able to.../*  
*I will be able to...*)

# MODAL VERBS

## □ COULD (podría/pudo)



They **could** swim when they were children.

1. Ability (past)

**Could** you speak up?

2. Polite request

You **could** study harder!!!

3. Polite suggestion

# MODAL VERBS

## □ MAY/MIGHT (puede que/podría)

1. Polite request

**May** I use your phone?



2. Probability/possibility

Javier Bardem **might/may** go to the party.

**“Might”** (podría) es más remoto que **“may”** (puede que).

# MODAL VERBS

## □ MUST (deber)/ HAVE TO (tener que)

1. Certainty that something is true

Your father **must** be very angry because he doesn't want to talk to you.

2. Obligation/necessity

You **have to/must** tidy up your bedroom.

3. Prohibition

You **mustn't** lie.

You **don't have to** say anything.

4. Lack of obligation



•“**Must**” is stronger than “**have to**”.  
•“**Must**” is used in present and “**have to**” in the other verbal tenses.



# MODAL VERBS

## □ NEED TO(necesitas, debes)/NEEDN'T (no es necesario)



1. Obligation, necessity

You **need to** eat healthy food.

2. Lack of obligation

I **needn't** do anything today.

- **“Need to”** in affirmative form (*I **need to** eat*).
- **“Needn't”** in negative form (*I **needn't** wait for them*).

# MODAL VERBS

## □ SHOULD/OUGHT TO (debería)

1. Advice/opinion



You **should/ought to** talk to him.

You **should/ought to** phone him.

You **shouldn't** laugh at him.

You **shouldn't** lie to him.

# MODAL PERFECTS

- SHOULD/OUGHT TO HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE (debería haber hecho...)
- SHOULDN'T HAVE+PAST PARTICIPLE (No debería haber hecho...)

I SHOULD/OUGHT TO  
HAVE DRIVEN CAREFULLY



I SHOULDN'T HAVE DRIVEN  
SO FAST...

Criticism given after an event



# MODAL PERFECTS

- MUST HAVE+PAST PARTICIPLE (debe haber...)



THEY **MUST HAVE GONE**  
ON HOLIDAYS.

A logical conclusion about a past action

# MODAL PERFECTS

- MAY/MIGHT HAVE+PAST PARTICIPLE (puede que haya.../podría haber...)



JOHN **MAY/MIGHT HAVE BEEN** ILL. HE IS ALWAYS ON TIME.

A guess about a past action

# MODAL PERFECTS

- COULD HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE (podría haber...)

I **COULD HAVE TRAINED**  
HARDER, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE  
ENOUGH TIME.

Ability to have done something



# MODAL PERFECTS

- **COULDN'T HAVE+ PAST PARTICIPLE** (no pudo haber...)

HE **COULDN'T HAVE SPENT**  
ALL THE MONEY.



A certainty that something did not happen.

# MODAL PERFECTS

- NEEDN'T HAVE+PAST PARTICIPLE (no tenías que/no era necesario que...)



YOU LOOK TIRED. YOU **NEEDN'T**  
**HAVE WORKED** SO HARD!!

An unnecessary action in the past.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

