



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** 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!!!

