**ALL ABOUT MODALS on UNIT 4**

**Modals** (also called **modal verbs, modal auxiliary verb**s, **modal auxiliaries**) are special verbs that behave irregularly in English. 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 of modal verbs:

* They never change their form. You can't add "s", "ed", "ing"...
* They are always followed by an infinitive without "to" (e.i. the bare infinitive.)
* They are used to indicate modality and allow speakers to express certainty, possibility, willingness, obligation, necessity, ability

Here is a list of modals with examples:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Modal Verb** | **Expressing** | **Example** |
| **must** | Strong obligation | You must stop when the traffic lights turn red. |
| logical conclusion / Certainty | He must be very tired. He's been working all day long. |
| **must not** | prohibition | You must not smoke in the hospital. |
| **can** | ability | I can swim. |
| permission | Can I use your phone, please? |
| possibility | Smoking can cause cancer. |
| **could** | ability in the past | When I was younger I could run fast. |
| polite permission | Excuse me, could I just say something? |
| possibility | It could rain tomorrow! |
| **may** | permission | May I use your phone, please? |
| possibility, probability | It may rain tomorrow! |
| **might** | polite permission | Might I suggest an idea? |
| possibility, probability | I might go on holiday to Australia next year. |
| **need not** | lack of necessity/absence of obligation | I need not buy tomatoes. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge. |
| **should/ought to** | 50 % obligation | I should / ought to see a doctor. I have a terrible headache. |
| advice | You should / ought to revise your lessons |
| logical conclusion | He should / ought to be very tired. He's been working all day long. |
| **had better** | advice | You'd better revise your lessons. |

**From** <https://www.myenglishpages.com/english/grammar-lesson-modals.php>

# Perfect Modal Verbs modal verb + have + past participle

**Perfect modals** take a modal verb (could, should, must, might/may) and pairs it with a perfect tense phrase (have + past participle), which is how it gets its name. Each of these modal constructions have slightly different meanings, and that’s what you will learn in this lesson. Pay attention to the construction and use of each, as these phrases are very common in English- you will hear them often and will need to use them. Overall, **perfect modals** allow you to talk about possibilities or regret. As an added bonus, one way to remember this type of construction? Take a listen to one of the most popular American songs, “[It Must Have Been Love](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2C5TjS2sh4)” and you will never use it incorrectly!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Perfect Modal | Picture | sentence |
| could have \_\_\_\_\_  couldn’t have \_\_\_\_\_  past ability | doing the dishes | The boy **could have done** the dishes himself, but his father decided to help. |
| should have \_\_\_\_  shouldn’t have \_\_\_\_  You did or didn’t do something that was a good idea. | dizzy girl | The girl **shouldn’t have spun** around so many times. She got dizzy and fell down.  spin: turn around many times.  spin / spun / spun |
| would have \_\_\_\_  wouldn’t have \_\_\_\_  past condition /  past situation | house of cards | This house of cards **would have fallen** over if the person who built it hadn’t been so careful. |
| may have \_\_\_\_\_  may not have \_\_\_\_\_  past possibility | old camera | My grandfather **may have used** this camera when he was a young man, but I’m not sure. |
| might have \_\_\_\_\_\_  might not have \_\_\_\_\_  past possibility | woman eating | Her mother **might have put** mustard on her sandwich. She hopes not. |
| must have \_\_\_\_  must not have \_\_\_  past probability.  This indicates that something probably happened in the past. | rock band | They **must have practiced** a lot because they’re very good musicians. |

from <https://www.learnamericanenglishonline.com/Yellow%20Level/Y12%20Perfect%20Modals.html>

**PRACTISE MODALS**

Follow the link below:

<https://www.english-grammar.at/online_exercises/modal-verbs/modal-verbs-index.htm>