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Modals

Infinitive
 works → work
 is/are working → be working
 worked → have worked
 was working → have been working

Must 1. Personal opinion

1 I think, suppose, assume, I am sure → must

I think he works hard → He must work hard (affirmative)
 Can he work hard?

I don't think he works hard → he can't work hard.
 Can't expresses negative personal opinion = I don't think, I don't suppose.

2. Obligation

I must wash my hair tonight

The work must be done before tomorrow.

May - Might (= more uncertain, more doubt).

1. It's likely
 Perhaps
 It's possible } ⇒ May For possibility now / in the future.

2. Permission eg May I ask a question?

3. may/might (just) as well = to have no strong reason not to
 eg There's nothing to do, so I may as well go to bed.

Might have + pp = It could have happened but it didn't
 eg It was a good thing I took a taxi to the station. Otherwise I might have missed the train.

Mustn't / mnsnt/

It is not allowed
 { permitted

It is { forbidden
 { prohibited

It is against the law/the rules

⇒ mustn't eg You aren't allowed to park here → You mustn't park here.

SHOULD - OUGHT TO

1. Obligation - Criticism.

I should^{really} help my mother with the dishes

it's your duty

It's wrong

I really ought to go and see her

It isn't proper

2. Advice:

You had (You'd) better

It's advisable

If I were you, I would

It would be a good idea

} should

3. Indicating a probable future event eg They should be here soon.
They ought to be here soon.SHALL1. Offers eg Would you like me to open the door? →
shall I open the door?

2. Suggestions eg Let's go out → shall we go out?

3. ^{1st person} Future (I and we) eg I shall send you the information as soon as possibleWILL

1. A prediction about the future. It will be raining tomorrow

2. A request or refusal eg Will you sit down, please? I won't go with you

3. A promise eg I will take you to the cinema

4. Willingness eg Could you lend me £1? Of course I will

5. An order eg You will start work at 8 on Monday

WOULD

1. Requests eg Would you type this letter for me, please?

2. A habit in the past (=used to) eg He would sing at the top of his voice in the shower.

CAN

1. Ability eg I can ski
 2. Permission eg Can I go now? - Possibility (=may)
 3. Suggestions eg We can go to the cinema
 4. Requests eg Can you tell me the way to the station, please?
 5. Offers eg Can I help you?
- can't = I don't think, I don't suppose.

COULD

1. Ability in the past eg when I was six I could play the piano
2. A possibility eg [Could he be right?] what kind of bones are these? It could be a dinosaur.
3. Permission eg Could I use your phone?
4. Advice + suggestions 5. Polite request eg Could you pass the salt, please?
5. ~~could have + pp~~ ^{it was possible} but I did not do it
eg He could have applied for the job (but he didn't)

Have to

Obligation eg We have to leave early

Permission: May - might - Can - Could

Request: will - would - can - could

Suggestions: shall - can - could

Possibility: May - might - could

Advice: should, ought to,

offers: shall, can

CAN: the construction can be + adjective has the meaning of capacity which is only shown on some occasions

eg He can (could) be very stubborn [It is clear that in this case he is (was) not always stubborn, but that having the capacity, he is (was) stubborn only on occasions.]

Need

necessary } $\Rightarrow$ need

It's necessary for me to go $\Rightarrow$ I need to go
 Do I need to or Need I go?
 I don't need to I needn't go

isn't necessary $\rightarrow$ don't need to
 needn't

Didn't need to - Needn't have +pp
 wasn't necessary } $\Rightarrow$ didn't need to, needn't have +pp
 It rained yesterday so it wasn't necessary for me to water
 the flowers $\rightarrow$ I didn't need to water the flowers.

didn't need to = it wasn't necessary so it didn't happen

I carried an umbrella but it was unnecessary because it didn't
 rain $\rightarrow$

I needn't have carried an umbrella

needn't have +pp = it was unnecessary but it happened