

# Modal Verbs

Function		Modal	Example	Opposite	Example
<b>Obligation</b>	External	HAVE TO	You have to drive on the left in Britain.	MUSTN'T	You mustn't smoke in hospitals or schools.
	Self-imposed	MUST	I must remember to call my parents.	MUSTN'T	I mustn't forget her birthday.
<b>Advice</b>	Normal	SHOULD / OUGHT TO	You should work harder.	SHOULDN'T	You shouldn't use bad language.
	Strong	<u>MUST</u> *	You <b>must</b> see this film.	<u>MUSTN'T</u> *	You <b>mustn't</b> miss this concert.
<b>Logical Deduction</b>		MUST	I hear thunder, it must be a storm.	CAN'T	You're too young; you can't be a mother.
<b>Lack of Obligation</b>		DON'T HAVE TO	We don't have to wear a uniform.	NEED TO	You need to wait for five more minutes.
<b>Possibility</b>	Real	CAN	I know they can win the match.	CAN'T	You cannot win unless there's a miracle.
	Probable	COULD	He could probably tell the truth.	COULDN'T	We couldn't be more tired.
	Written	MAY	We may travel abroad next year.	MAY NOT	We may not have another chance.
	Spoken	MIGHT	She might be at work or gone fishing.	MIGHT NOT	They might not be able to help you.
<b>Permission</b>	Informal	CAN	You can now use the toilet.	CAN'T / CANNOT	You can't talk until you're asked.
	Formal	MAY	We're done! You may leave now.	MAY NOT	Pencils may not be used during the test.

(\*) Emphasised