

Modals

What are the Modal Verbs?

Modals (also called modal verbs, modal auxiliary verbs, modal auxiliaries) are special verbs which 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.

Modals are verbs used to express the mood or attitude of the speaker. They are used before ordinary verbs and express meanings such as permission, possibility, certainty and necessity. Modals have not ‘-s/es’ in the third person singular. They have no infinitive and -ing form.

Has to/Have to

(a) ‘Has to’ and ‘Have to’ are used to express some compulsion, necessity or obligation in the present or future tenses. The expression ‘had to’ is the past tense of ‘has to’ and ‘have to’ and serves the same function.

- Rajendra has to finish his work on time.
- I have to withdraw money from the bank.
- He had to move the almirah himself.

(b) In negatives and questions, ‘have to’ and ‘had to’ are used with ‘do’, ‘does’ and ‘did’.

- They don’t have to worry about food.
- She doesn’t have to finish the drawings.
- Prem didn’t have to go.

Must

‘Must’ doesn’t have a past tense form. We can use ‘must’ to talk about the present or the future. To talk about the past, we use had to (the past form of ‘have to’.)

‘Must’ is used to express

(a) Compulsion

- You must see the doctor at once.
- He must work hard in order to pass.

(b) Duty

- One must serve one’s country.
- We must respect our parents.



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(c) Obligation

You must help your neighbours.

- One must obey one's elders.

(d) Necessity

- If you want to reach on time, you must run fast.
- You must speak loudly if you want to be heard.

(e) Logical certainty

- It is getting dark. She must have left already.
- Living in such abnormal conditions must be difficult.

Mustn't

'Mustn't' is used to convey the sense of obligation, compulsion, etc. as in the case of must but in the negative sense.

- We mustn't waste our time.
- You have fever. You mustn't jump around.
- she mustn't go late for the interview.

Should /Shouldn't

1. 'Should' is used in all persons to express duty or obligation.

- We should obey the laws.
- You should be honest.
- Children shouldn't deface the walls.
- She should respect her elder brother.

2. 'Should' is used to express caution or purpose

- Work hard lest you should fail.
- Walk carefully lest you should fall.

3. 'Advice'

- You should not speak loudly.
- She should learn the facts properly.
- We should not jump to conclusions.

4. Guess/Supposition



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- It shouldn't rain. The sky is clear.
- If my father should see me at the restaurant, he will be annoyed.
The baby should be about a year old.
- It shouldn't take them more than three hours to reach here.

Need

'Need' is used to express necessity or obligation generally in an interrogative sentence in the present tense.

- Need you worry about your lost documents?
- Need I tell you more?
- Need she pay the amount?

Needn't/ Need not

'Needn't'/'Need not' is used to express necessity in the negative sense.

- I need not meet him.
- I can very well hear you. You needn't shout.
- You need not have abused him.

Ought to

'Ought to' is used to express 1.
Obligation or desirability.

- We ought to love our neighbours. • You ought to respect your elders.
- He ought to get the promotion.

2. Duty

- We ought to help the poor.
- You ought to respect the traffic rules.

3. Probability

- The prices of onions ought to come down soon.

4. Logical deduction

- The book has been received well. It ought to fetch a good price.
- The chief guest has left. He ought to be here any minute.

Ought Not



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‘Ought not’ is the negative form of ‘ought’. It advises against something.

- He ought not smoke so much.
We ought not disrespect our elders.

Note: Usually ‘to’ is not used after ‘ought’ when followed by ‘not’.

Modals Solved Exercise With Answers

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the modals.

Question 1.

1. you touch your toes without bending your knees?
2. I leave now?
3. It rain tonight.
4. He be sick; his eyes are red and watery.
5. You not drive after drinking.
6. you like to have a glass of milk?
7. If you know what is good for you, you give up smoking.
8. You don't to get an X-ray.
9. He have been in a lot of pain.
10. We eat a lot of sugar but we don't anymore.

Question 2.

- (a) You to love your siblings.
- (b) I to talk to you.
- (c) You lose your cool over petty matters.
- (d) He speak politely.
- (e) Children avoid eating junk food.
- (f) You carry an umbrella when going out in the Sun.
- (g) She have distributed the sweets.
- (h) They complete their work by noon.
- (i) Get off the bus carefully lest you fall.
- (j) You show yourself to a doctor urgently.

Answer:

- (a) ought
- (b) need
- (c) must not
- (d) should
- (e) must/should



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- (f) must/ought to
- (g) must/should
- (h) will
- (i) should
- (j) need to/must

Question 3.

Manish : I (a) do practice of wrestling every day

Rashid : But you (b) not overexert yourself so much.

Manish : I (c) win the competition at any cost.

Rashid : You (d) remember that our health takes priority over other things.

Mohan : Oh yes! You (e) worry. I am careful about my health. **Answer:**

(a) must

(b) should

(c) have to

(d) must ought to (e) need not

Question 4.

Mr. Kapoor (a) to pay the debts of Rajender otherwise, Rajender (b)

..... inform the police. Everyone feels that Mr. Kapoor (c) return the money. In the first place only, he (d) not have taken the money as he is from a well off family.

Answer:

(a) ought to

(b) will

(c) should (d) should

Question 5.

He is supposed to deliver a lecture today. He (a) be in the auditorium by now.

Today, he (b) get up early to prepare the lecture. It was very well delivered. He said that we (c) all think carefully before our actions and (d) not

miss opportunities in life. **Answer:**

(a) must

(b) had to

(c) must (d) should

Question 6.

Ruby : Papa, I have not seen Qutab Minar, we (a) visit it.

Papa : Yes, we (b) all go together next week and (c) not forget it.

Ruby : (d) I remind you papa?

Papa : No child, I shall remember to plan the visit. **Answer:**

(a) must

(b) will

(c) should (d) May



