

MODAL VERBS

Can, could, may, might, must, should, ought to, needn't, would.

A los verbos modales se les llama también defectivos porque se rigen bajo unas reglas muy determinadas, estas son:

- 1.-No llevan -s en la tercera persona del singular del presente simple. **He can do it**
- 2.-No necesitan -do o -does para formar la negativa ni la interrogativa que ellos mismos hacen de auxiliares . **Can you dance? No, I can't.**
- 3.-Van seguidos del infinitivo SIN to ,excepto ought to.. **He must come home soon.**

CARACTERÍSTICAS DE CADA UNO DE ELLOS:

CAN

- 1.-He can find any street in London. **Ability**
- 2.-You can take a taxi. **Suggestion**
- 3.-Can you take me to Victoria Station? **Request (petición)**

BE ABLE TO: He was able to find any street in London. **Ability** . BE ABLE TO lo utilizamos en los tiempos que le faltan a CAN, ya que se puede conjugar en pasado, futuro etc
Will you be able to do it before six o'clock?. ¿Podrás hacerlo antes de las 6?

Recuerda BE ABLE TO y HAVE TO se consideran SEMI MODALES ya que se pueden conjugar como verbos normales pero tienen características de modales también.

CAN'T.- That story can't be true. **Certainty that something is impossible**

COULD

- 1.- I could play tennis when I was younger. **Ability in the past**
- 2.-Could you take me to Victoria Station? **Request**
- 3.-You could take a taxi. **Suggestion**

MAY

- 1.-It may be quicker to travel by train. **Possibility (puede que...)**
- 2.-May I come in? **Formal request**

MIGHT

It might be quicker to travel by train. **Possibility (podría....)**

MUST

- 1.-I must go to the dentist. **Moral Obligation (It's good for me)**
- 2.-Look at the snow. It must be cold outside. **Certainty that something is true**

MUSTN'T

You mustn't drive without a licence. **Prohibition**

HAVE TO

You have to go to the dentist. **Obligation (somebody makes you do it) or it's a rule.**

DON'T HAVE TO

You don't have to call a taxi. **Lack of obligation**

NEEDN'T

You needn't have a university degree. **Lack of obligation**

SHOULD

You should drive more carefully **Advice (more frequently used)**

OUGHT TO

You ought to drive more carefully **Advice (hardly used in negative and interrogative)**

WOULD

Would you mind waiting a moment? **Request**

Would you mind waiting a moment? **Invitation**

MODAL + HAVE +P.P (PERFECT INFINITIVE)

MUST HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE:

The driver must have lost his way. **A certainty or logical conclusion about an event in the past. (debió haberse perdido)**

MIGHT / MAY HAVE +P.P.

She might / may have bought a new car. **A guess about something which happened in the past. (puede que se haya comprado..)**

COULD HAVE +P.P.

You could have avoided that accident. **The ability to do something in the past, but which in the end was not done.(pudo haber evitado...)**

COULDN'T HAVE + P.P.

He couldn't have known about the problem. **A certainty that something did not happen(.no podía haber sabido..)**

SHOULD HAVE+P.P.

1.- He should have listened to me. **Advice which was not followed in the past.(debería haberme escuchado)**

2.-They should have won the competition.**Expectations which were not fulfilled in the past.**

SHOULDN'T HAVE+ P.P.

You shouldn't have gone on foot. **Criticism that was given after an event.**