

Test Your Grammar Skills

Modal Verbs – Revision Page

Past Form(s)	Modal Verb	No.	Use(s)	Strength	For Example	Future Form(s)
had to has/have or had had to	must	1	necessity (internal)	100%	I must remember to phone mum.	must
	have to / have got to	2	obligation (external)	100%	I have (got) to make a cake for Ian.	have to will/going to have to will/going to have had to
was/were not allowed to has/have or had not been allowed to	must not be not allowed to	3	prohibition	100%	You must not drop litter. You are not allowed to drop litter.	must not will not/not going to be allowed to will not/not going to have been allowed to
should should have* ought to ought to have*	should / ought to <i>(more formal)</i>	4 5 6 7	duty advice recommendation logical deduction	70% 70% 70% 70%	You should respect your parents. You ought to go to the doctor's. You should read this novel. The flight ought to take four hours.	should ought to
could could have* was/were able to has/have or had been able to	can / be able to	8 9 10 11	ability possibility permission suggestion	100% 100% 100% 50%	I can play the guitar. I can meet you on Tuesday at ten. Yes, you can go to the concert. You can ask Sheila to help you.	can will/going to be able to will/going to have been able to
might/may have might/might have was/were allowed to has/have or had been allowed to	may / might	12 13	slight possibility formal permission	20% 100%	It may rain later tonight. Yes, you might leave a few minutes early today.	may might will/going to be allowed to will/going to have been allowed to
would would have*	will <i>(use shall for suggestions)</i>	14 15 16 17	future (prediction) future (spontaneous) future (promise) future (willingness)	100% 100% 100% 100%	It think it will be a difficult meeting. (The phone rings:) "I'll get it!" Yes, I will help you move house. I'll make a cake, if you need me to.	will will have would**

* unreal past – did not happen

Remember: infinitive after modal verb!

** unreal future

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