

LOS VERBOS MODALES

ASPECTOS GENERALES DE LOS VERBOS MODALES PRINCIPALES VERBOS MODALES Y SU USO EJERCICIOS

Los verbos modales expresan capacidad, posibilidad, obligación y voluntad. Como norma general, no tienen ni forma de infinitivo, ni participio, ni gerundio.

ASPECTOS GENERALES DE LOS VERBOS MODALES

-Todos los verbos modales tienen la misma forma verbal para todas las personas, de modo que son invariables.

Ejemplos:

I can't ski. No sé esquiar
We should go to the dentist. Deberíamos ir al dentista.
She must go home now. Debe irse a casa ahora mismo.

-Se colocan anteriores al verbo principal en negativa y afirmativa.

Ejemplos:

I shouldn't eat so much chocolate. No debería comer tanto chocolate.
They have to go to Marta's place. Tienen que ir a casa de Marta.

-Los verbos modales van seguidos de un infinitivo sin "TO" excepto los verbos OUGHT y HAVE TO.

Ejemplos:

Sarah mustn't enter the pub. Está prohibido que Sara entre en el bar.
Peter could play basketball 5 years ago. Peter sabía jugar al baloncesto hace 5 años.



PRINCIPALES VERBOS MODALES Y SU USO

CAN/CAN'T

-Para expresar capacidad para hacer algo.

Ejemplo:

She can play the piano very well not as much as she can play the drums. Sabe tocar muy bien el piano, pero no tanto como la batería.

-Para pedir algo de manera educada.

Ejemplo:

Can I have some water, please? ¿Puedes darme un poco de agua, por favor?

-Para expresar posibilidad o imposibilidad.

Ejemplo:

I can go to the park on Saturday but I can't go to the cinema on Monday. Puedo ir al parque el Sábado pero no puedo ir al cine el Lunes.

-Para pedir permiso.

Ejemplo:

Can I close the window?. ¿Puedo cerrar la ventana?

COULD/COULDN'T

-Para expresar capacidad de hacer algo en el pasado.

Ejemplo:

My father could drive a motorcycle at the age of 16. Mi padre sabía conducir una moto con 16 años.



-Para pedir algo de manera educada (más formal que CAN)

Ejemplo:

Could you tell me the time, please?. ¿Podría decirme la hora, por favor?

-Para hacer sugerencias

Ejemplo:

We could have a drink in the pub next to your house. Podríamos tomar algo en el bar de al lado de tu casa.

MUST/MUSTN'T

-En afirmativa lo utilizamos para expresar obligación (como normas y leyes)

Ejemplos:

You must wear an uniform at school. Debes llevar uniforme al colegio.
In Britain you must drive on the left. En Inglaterra debes conducir por la izquierda.

-En negativa lo utilizamos para expresar prohibición.

Ejemplo:

You mustn't smoke in hospitals or other public places. Está prohibido fumar en los hospitales públicos.

SHOULD/SHOULDN'T

-Para dar consejos de manera positiva o negativa.

Ejemplos:

You should go to the dentist if your teeth keep aching. Deberías ir al dentista si te siguen doliendo las muelas.

She shouldn't eat so many sweets if she wants to be healthy. No deberías comer tantos dulces, si quieres estar sana.



HAVE TO/DON'T HAVE TO

-En afirmativa para expresar obligación, sin ser norma o ley como MUST.

Ejemplo:

you have to be 18 to come in to a disco. Tienes que tener 18 años para entrar en la discoteca.

-En negativa, para expresar ausencia de obligación.

Ejemplo;

You don't have to bring anything. There will be a lot of food in the BBQ. No tienes que traer nada. Habrá mucha comida en la BBQ.

MAY/MIGHT

Se utiliza MIGHT para:

-Expresar la posibilidad remota de que algo ocurra.

Ejemplo:

It might rain on Sunday afternoon. Podría llover el Domingo por la tarde.

Se utiliza MAY para:

-Pedir permiso acerca de algo.

Ejemplo:

May I use your phone? ¿Podría utilizar su teléfono?

SHALL

- Para hacer un ofrecimiento

Ejemplo:

Shall I bring you some coffee or biscuits? ¿te traigo café o galletas?

- Para hacer sugerencias

Ejemplo:

Shall we go to dinner tonight? ¿vamos a cenar esta noche?

NEED/NEEDN'T

- Para expresar necesidad

Ejemplo:

Need we go now? ¿Es necesario que nos vayamos ahora?

En forma negativa, para expresar ausencia de obligación.

Ejemplo:

You needn't to post the letter for me. No hace falta que envíes esa carta por mí.

EJERCICIOS

1. Choose the correct answer:

- You (can't/shouldn't/may not) worry! Everything will be fine.
- We (can/might not/should) clean the room before we go out. It's so untidy.
- They (Shouldn't/couldn't/wouldn't) hear him because there was a lot of noise.
- You (have to/must/can) wait for your results. They 'll be ready next week.
- (Shall/Must/Need) we go to watch that movie?
- You (must/don't have to/many) follow the rules of the game.

2. Write MUST/MUSTN'T/SHOULDN'T/SHOULDN'T

- Wemake any noise when we go inside. Everyone's asleep.
- You.....be so rude to her.
- In Britain youdrive on the left.
- You.....give up smoking if you want to be healthy.
- We.....wear a uniform at work.
- Youdrink many coffee or coke.

3. Translate these sentences using MODAL VERBS:

- Está prohibido utilizar el ascensor del hospital.
- Deberías conducir mejor si no quieres perder los puntos.
- ¿Podría decirme donde está la salida?
- No tenías por qué haber traído un regalo.
- No me acostumbro a levantarme pronto por las mañanas.

4. Complete with modal verbs:

- Ted's flight from Amsterdam took more than 11 hours. Hebe exhausted after such a long flight. Heprefer to stay in tonight and get some rest.
- If you want to get a better feeling for how the city is laid out., you.....walk downtown and explore the waterfront.
- Hiking the trail to the peak.....be dangerous if you are not well prepares for dramatic weather changes. Youresearch the route a little more before you attempt the ascent.
- When you have a small child in the house, you.....leave small objects lying around. Such objects.....be swallowed, causing serious injury or even death.
- Dave:.....you hold your breath for more than a minute? Nathan: No, I can't.
- Jenny's engagement ring is enormous! It.....have cost a fortune.
- Please make sure to water my plants while I am gone. If they don't get enough water, Theydie.
- I.....speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Egypt. But after we moved back to Canada, I had very little exposure to the language and forgot almost everything I knew as a child. Now, I.....just say a few things in the language.
- The book is optional. My teacher said we.....read it if we needed extra credit. But we.....read it if we don't want to.

- Leo: Where is the spatula? Itbe in this drawer but it's not here.
 Nancy: I just did a load of dishes last night and they are still in the dish washer.
 It.....be in there. That's the only other place it.....be.

5. Complete the sentences with CAN/COULD/MUST/SHOULD/MIGHT/HAVE TO

- Youtake your umbrella along with you today. The weatherman on the news said there's a storm north of here and it.....rain later on this afternoon.
- we pull over at the next rest stop? I really.....use the bathroom and I don't know if I.....hold it until we get to Chicago.
- Oh, no!! Frank's wallet is lying n the coffee table. Hehave left it here last night.
- Ned:.....I borrow your lighter for a minut?
 Stephen: Sure, no problem. Actually , you.....keep it if ypu want to. I've given up smoking.
- I.....believe she said that to Megan! Sheinsult her cooking in front of everyone at the party last night. She.....have just said she was full or had some salad if she didn't like the meal.
- Do you.....chew with your month open like that? Geez, It's making me sick watching you eat that piece of pizza.
- Mrs. Scarlett's body was foundin the lounge just moments ago, and it's still warm! Nobody has left the mansion this evening, so the killer.....be someone in this room. It.....be any of us!
- Ted: I don't know why Denise starting crying when I mentioned the wedding.
 Pamela: It.....have been what you said about her brother. Or, perhaps she is just nervous. After all, the big day is tomorrow.
-you always say the first thing that pops into your head?.....you think once in a while before you speak?
- I was reading the book last night before I went to bed. I never took it out of this room. It.....be lying around here somewhere. Where.....it be? Be swallowed, causing serious injury or even death.