

# SPOTLIGHT 10

Modal verbs , module 4

## New notions:

- Possibility
- Ability
- Permission
- Obligation
- Request
- Necessity
- Advice



## Modals

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Can/could, may/might, must/[had to], ought to, shall/should, will/would:

- don't take **-s** , **-ing** or **-ed** affixes.
- are followed by the bare infinitive.
- come before the subject in questions and are followed by **not** in negations.
- don't have tenses in the normal sense. When followed by a normal bare infinitive, they refer to an uncompleted action or state (i.e. present or future); when followed by the bare perfect infinitive, they refer to a completed action or state.

## Обязательство / Долг / Необходимость (must, have to, should / ought to)

- **must** выражает долг / строгое обязательство сделать что-либо, показывает, что какое-либо действие крайне необходимо.

*If the pain persists I must see a doctor.*

- **have to** выражает обусловленную обстоятельствами необходимость.

*The vet says we have to give some medicine to our dog.*

- **had to** — форма прошедшего времени для **must** и **have to**.

- **should / ought to** выражает обязательство, рекомендацию.

*You should send her a card for her birthday.*

## Obligation/Duty/Necessity

- **Must:** Expresses duty/strong obligation to do sth, shows that sth is essential. We generally use **must** when the speaker has decided that sth is necessary (i.e. subjective).

*I must contact the school for further information.*

- **Have to:** Expresses strong necessity/obligation. We usually use **have to** when somebody other than the speaker has decided that sth is necessary (i.e. objective).

*He said that we have to be at the train station by 7:00.*

- **Had to** is the past form of both **must** and **have to**.
- **Should/Ought to** expresses duty, weak obligation.  
*We should clear away the mess in the kitchen.*

## Отсутствие необходимости (don't have to/need to, needn't)

- **don't have to/don't need to/needn't** выражает отсутствие необходимости делать что-либо в настоящем или будущем. *You don't have to buy extra bread. You don't need to tell them if you're leaving earlier. She needn't go on a diet.*
- **didn't have to** выражает отсутствие необходимости в прошлом. Неизвестно, было это сделано или нет. *They didn't have to take them out to dinner. (We don't know if they took them out.)*

## Absence of necessity

- **Don't have to/Don't need to/Needn't:** It isn't necessary to do sth in the present/future. *You don't have to dress formally today. You don't need to go if you don't want to. You needn't wear your best clothes.*
- **Didn't have to:** It wasn't necessary to do sth. We don't know if it was done or not. *He didn't have to invite everyone to the party. (We don't know if he invited everyone.)*

## Permission/Prohibition

- **Can/May:** Are used to ask for/give permission. *May* is more formal than *can*.  
*Can/May I use your phone, please? Yes, of course, you can/may.*
- **Mustn't/Can't:** It is forbidden to do sth; it is against the rules/law; you are not allowed to do sth.  
*You mustn't/can't park here.*

## Разрешение/Запрет (can, may, mustn't, can't)

- **can/may** употребляются для того, чтобы попросить/дать разрешение на что-либо. *May* является более формальным, чем *can*.  
*Can/May I borrow your pen? Yes, you can/may.*
- **mustn't/can't** употребляются, когда запрещается что-либо делать (правилами, законом).  
*You mustn't/can't talk loudly in the library.*

## Возможность (can, could)

- **can + инфинитив** употребляется для обозначения общей, теоретической возможности действия. Не используется для конкретной ситуации.

*It can get pretty cold up here.*

- **could/may/might + инфинитив** употребляется для выражения возможности действия в определенной ситуации.

*It might be cold today, so bring an extra jumper.*

**Примечание.** can/could/might может употребляться в вопросительных предложениях, may не может. *Where could I buy a good coat?*

- **could/might/would + перфектный инфинитив** употребляется, когда речь идет о действии в прошлом, которое было возможно, но не произошло. *I could have lent you some money, but I hadn't been paid yet.*

**Примечание.**

## Possibility

- **Can + present infinitive:** General/Theoretical possibility. Not usually used for a specific situation. *Going to the gym can be boring.*
- **Could/May/Might + present infinitive:** Possibility in a specific situation. *She should take a map with her. She might get lost.*

**NOTE:** We can use can/could/might in questions BUT NOT may. *How difficult can it be?*

- **Could/Might/Would + perfect infinitive:** Refers to sth in the past that was possible but didn't happen. *He could have come with us, if he hadn't missed the train.*

Note how the forms of the infinitive are formed:

Present simple: (to) play

Present continuous: (to) be playing

Present perfect simple: (to) have played

Present perfect continuous: (to) have been playing

## Способность/Неспособность (can, could, was able to)

- **can** выражает умение, способность сделать что-либо в настоящем или будущем.  
*He can perform magic tricks.*
- **could** выражает способность делать что-либо в прошлом.  
*She could work longer hours when she was younger.*
- **was(n't) able to** выражает (не)способность сделать что-либо в прошлом. *He was(n't) able to attend yesterday's meeting.*
- **couldn't** выражает неспособность выполнить действие в прошлом.  
*Daniel couldn't swim when he was three.*  
*He couldn't/wasn't able to swim yesterday because it was a bit chilly.*

## Ability/Inability

- **Can** expresses ability in the present/future.  
*I can speak Italian fluently.*
- **Could** expresses general repeated ability in the past.  
*I could sing quite well when I was younger.*
- **Was(n't) able to** expresses (in)ability on a specific occasion in the past. *I was(n't) able to find all the answers to the questions.*
- **Couldn't** may be used to express any kind of inability in the past, repeated or specific.  
*I couldn't read or write when I was four.*  
*I couldn't/wasn't able to speak to him yesterday.*



## Logical Assumptions/Deductions

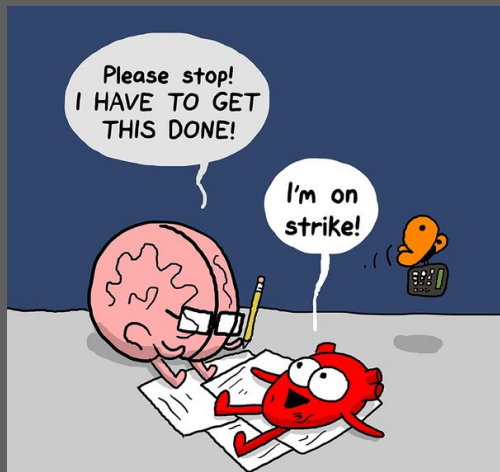
- **Must** = almost certain that this is/was true  
*He isn't at work. So he **must be** on his way home.*  
*John hasn't come yet. Something **must have delayed** him.*
- **May/Might/Could** = possible that this is/was true  
*The computer is out of order. It **may** be broken.*  
*They were lucky. They **could** have been killed.*
- **Can't/Couldn't** = almost certain that this is/was impossible  
*That **can't be** Ian! Ian has blue eyes and blond hair.*  
*Jim **couldn't** have cooked dinner. He's been at work since morning.*

## Совет (should, ought to, shall)

- **should:** совет общего характера  
*She should seek the help of a professional.*
- **ought to:** совет общего характера  
*Everyone ought to recycle.*
- **shall:** просьба о совете  
*Shall I complain to the manager?*

## Advice

- **Should:** general advice  
*You should stop smoking.*
  - **Ought to:** general advice  
*You ought to abide by the rules.*
  - **Shall:** asking for advice  
*Shall I enter the competition?*
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- Certain verbs or expressions can be used with the same meaning as modals. These are:  
**need** (= must), **had better** (= should), **have (got) to** (= must), **be able to** (= can), **used to** (= would).  
*I've got to see the doctor. Will you be able to help me?*

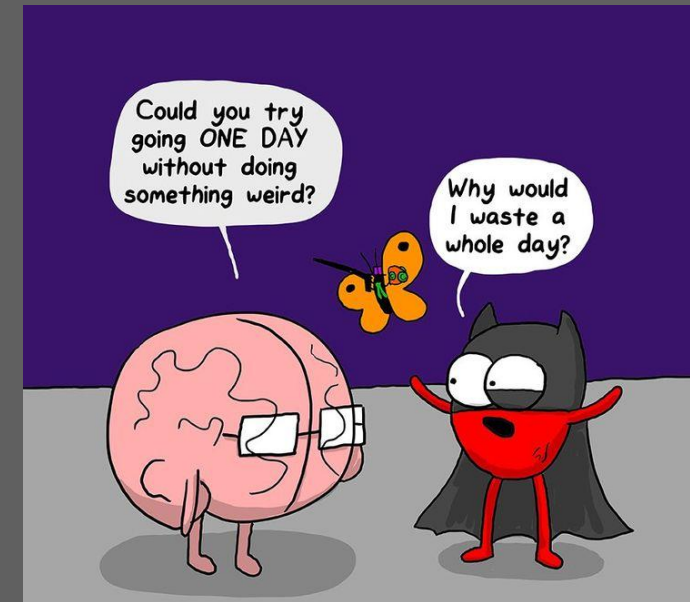


## Criticism

- **Could:** *You could at least be polite to her.* (present)  
*You could at least have called to cancel it yesterday.* (past)
- **Should:** *He should call us back. She should have told us.* (but she didn't)
- **Ought to:** *You ought to be more careful.*

## Критические замечания (could, should, ought to)

- **could:** *You could at least be polite to her.* (настоящее время)  
*You could have waited for them to come.* (прошедшее время)
- **should:** *He should be more patient. She should have apologised to them.* (но она не сделала это)
- **ought to:** *She ought to stop wasting her parents' money.*



## Offers/Suggestions

- Can: *Can I/we give you a hand?*
- Would: *Would you like a cup of tea?*
- Shall: *Shall I give you a lift?*
- Can/Could: *We can go out. We could watch TV.*

## Предложения (can, would, shall, could)

- can: *Can I bring you something else?*
- would: *What else would you like?*
- shall: *Shall I pick you up from work?*
- can/could: *We can rent a DVD. We could go on a picnic.*

## Вероятность (will, should/ought to, must)

- **will:** *He will ask her to marry him.* (100% уверенность)
- **should/ought to:** *They should/ought to be here soon.* (90% уверенность; только будущее время; это вероятно)
- **must:** *She must be busy.* (70% уверенность, должно быть)

## Probability

- **Will:** *He will call me tonight.* (100% certain)
- **Should/Ought to:** *The weather should/ought to get better tomorrow.* (90% certain; future only; it's probable)

## Main meanings

- Must – obligation imposed by the speaker / logical assumption
- Have to – obligation imposed by a situation (external obligation)
- Ought to – moral obligation denoting a duty, advice or a reasonable action
- Need to – necessity
- Should – suggestion, advice
- Can – possibility, ability, permission
- Could – past possibility, ability, asking for permission
- May – request, permission
- Might – possibility (higher degree of doubt), polite suggestion

## Affirmative / negative differences

- Have to (obligation)/ don't have to (lack of obligation)
- Must (obligation)/ mustn't (prohibition)
- Need to (necessity)/ don't need to (lack of necessity)
- Can (possibility)/ can't (impossibility/ logical assumption)