

High-Intermediate 1
Unit 7: Grammar
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Modals = Modal Verbs = Modal Auxiliary Verbs

A modal verb is a type of auxiliary (helping) verb that expresses necessity, possibility, permission, or ability. Modal verbs are used to indicate the mood of the main verb in a sentence. Common modal verbs include:

- **Can:** ability or possibility (e.g., "She can speak three languages.")
- **Could:** past ability or polite requests (e.g., "He could swim when he was five.")
- **May:** permission or possibility (e.g., "You may leave early today.")
- **Might:** possibility (e.g., "It might rain tomorrow.")
- **Must:** necessity or strong obligation (e.g., "You must wear a seatbelt.")
- **Shall:** future intention or suggestion (e.g., "Shall we go for a walk?")
- **Should:** advice or expectation (e.g., "You should see a doctor.")
- **Will:** future intention or certainty (e.g., "I will finish my work by tomorrow.")
- **Would:** polite requests or hypothetical situations (e.g., "Would you like some coffee?")

These verbs do not change form according to the subject, and they are followed by the base form of the main verb.

Point:

Modal verbs are different from auxiliary verbs.

Auxiliary Verbs = Helping Verbs

Auxiliary Verbs ➡ am, is, are, do, does, did, has, have, had,

The difference between Modals & Auxiliary Verbs:

1. Modals have meanings, but auxiliary verbs are meaningless.

Examples:

Tom **can** play basketball.

- Can = be able to ➡ Can: Modal Verb

Tom **is** playing basketball.

- Is: Auxiliary Verb ➡ It just has a grammatical function in the sentence.

2. Auxiliary verbs can be conjugated, but we can't conjugate modals. In other words, auxiliary verbs have different forms, but modals have the same form.

For example:

the auxiliary verb of the present progressive ➡ the verb "to be" ➡ am, is, are
conjugate = to list the forms of a verb in a particular order

3. Auxiliary verbs have an infinitive form, but modals don't.

infinitive = to + Simple Form of the Verb

For example:

Infinitive Forms of Auxiliaries: to be, to do, to have

⚠ But we can't say, "to can", "to should", "to may", ⚠

Modal-Like Verbs = Semi-Modals

Modal-Like Verbs ➡ have to, be able to

Modal-Like verbs have meanings like modals, but they can be conjugated and have an infinitive form like auxiliary verbs.

must vs. should

The words “must” and “should” are both modal verbs in English, but they convey different levels of obligation and necessity.

Must

- **Meaning:** Indicates a strong obligation or necessity. It is used when something is required or compulsory.
- **Example:** “You must wear a seatbelt while driving.”

Should

- **Meaning:** Suggests a recommendation or advice. It is used when something is advisable or a good idea, but not mandatory.
- **Example:** “You should eat more vegetables for better health.”

In summary, “must” is used for actions that are necessary or required, while “should” is used for actions that are recommended or advised.

must vs. have to

The difference between “must” and “have to” lies in the source of the obligation or necessity:

1. Must:

- **Personal Obligation:** “Must” is used when the speaker feels that something is necessary. It reflects a personal decision or strong recommendation.
- **Examples:**
 - “I must finish this project by tonight.” (The speaker feels it is necessary.)
 - “You must see this movie; it’s amazing!” (The speaker strongly recommends it.)

2. Have to:

- **External Obligation:** “Have to” is used when the obligation comes from an external source, such as rules, laws, or instructions from someone else.
- **Examples:**
 - “I have to finish this project by tonight.” (The deadline is imposed by someone else, like a boss.)
 - “You have to wear a uniform at work.” (The rule is set by the workplace.)

In summary, “must” is more about what the speaker thinks is necessary, while “have to” is about obligations imposed by external factors.

mustn't vs. not have to

We use “mustn't” when there is a negative obligation and we are not permitted to do something. But we use “not have to” when there is no obligation and doing something is optional:

1. **Mustn't:** This indicates a prohibition. It means something is not allowed or is forbidden. For example:
 - “You **mustn't** smoke here.” (It is prohibited to smoke here.)
2. **Not have to:** This indicates a lack of necessity or obligation. It means something is not required, but it is allowed if you choose to do it. For example:
 - “You **don't have to** come to the meeting.” (It is not necessary to come to the meeting, but you can if you want to.)

In summary, “mustn't” is used to express that something is not permitted, while “not have to” is used to express that something is optional.

should vs. ought to

“Should” and “ought to” are both modal verbs used to give advice, recommendations, or express obligations, but they have subtle differences:

1. **Formality:**
 - “**Should**” is more commonly used in both formal and informal contexts.
 - “**Ought to**” is slightly more formal and less frequently used in everyday conversation.
2. **Usage:**
 - “**Should**” is used to suggest what is best or advisable. For example, “You should visit your parents more often.”
 - “**Ought to**” implies a stronger sense of duty or correctness. For example, “You ought to follow the traffic rules”.
3. **Interchangeability:**
 - In many cases, “should” and “ought to” can be used interchangeably without changing the meaning significantly. For instance, “You should apologize” and “You ought to apologize” both convey a recommendation.
4. **Probability:**
 - “**Should**” can also indicate a probable outcome. For example, “The train should arrive soon.”
 - “**Ought to**” can similarly express probability but is less common in this usage.

should vs. had better

The phrases “had better” and “should” are both used to give advice, but they differ in terms of urgency and the consequences of not following the advice:

1. Had Better:

- **Urgency:** “Had better” implies a stronger sense of urgency.
- **Consequences:** It suggests that there will be serious consequences if the advice is not followed. It’s often used in situations where there is a risk or danger involved. For example, “You had better take an umbrella, or you’ll get soaked.”

2. Should:

- **Urgency:** “Should” is less urgent compared to “had better.”
- **Consequences:** It is used for general advice or recommendations without implying serious consequences. For example, “You should take an umbrella in case it rains.”

Assumptions

assumption = something that you accept as true without question or proof

We can use modal verbs to make positive and negative assumptions about various situations. Each modal verb implies a different degree of certainty in our assumption. The following tables illustrate the modal verbs which are used in assumptions and the degree of certainty which each one implies.

Positive Assumptions	
Modal	Certainty
must	100%
have to, have got to	70%
may	50%
might, could	30%

Situation:

- It is snowing heavily.

Assumptions:

- *The road **must** be closed.* ➔ I am 100% sure that the road is closed.
- *The road **has to** be closed.* ➔ I am 70% sure that the road is closed.
- *The road **may** be closed.* ➔ I am 50% sure that the road is closed.
- *The road **might** be closed.* ➔ I am 30% sure that the road is closed.
- *The road **could** be closed.* ➔ I am 30% sure that the road is closed.

Negative Assumptions	
Modal	Certainty
can't, couldn't	100%
must not	70%
may not	50%
might not	30%

Assumptions:

- *The road **can't** be open.* ➔ I am 100% sure that the road is not open.

- *The road couldn't be open.* ⇒ I am 100% sure that the road is not open.
- *The road mustn't be open.* ⇒ I am 70% sure that the road is not open.
- *The road may not be open.* ⇒ I am 50% sure that the road is not open.
- *The road might not be open.* ⇒ I am 30% sure that the road is not open.

Source:

[High Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)