**MODAL VERBS**

**CHARACTERISTICS**

• they have no to-infinitive (nu au particula to la infinitiv):

Ex.: can = a putea //to see = a vedea

• they are followed by short infinitive (sunt urmate de infinitivul scurt, fără particula to): Ex.: I can swim. = Pot să înot. // I know to swim. = Ştiu să înot.

• they have no -S at the 3rd pers, sg, present (nu primesc -S la pers. a lll-a sg., la timpul prezent)

Ex.: He can do that because he knows it.

= Poate să facă acest lucru pentru că ştie cum.

• they have no auxiliaries for interrogative and negative forms (nu au nevoie de auxiliare pentru

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| formarea interogativului şi negativului) |  |
| Ex: I can swim.I swim. | Can you swim?Do you swim? | No, I cannot.No, I do not. |

• they have only the present form (nu se conjugă la alte timpuri în afară de prezent):

Exception (Excep ii): can - could; may - might for past and conditional) Equivalent expressions (Pentru celelalte timpuri, se folosesc expresii echivalente):

can = to be able to

may = to be allowed to must = to have to

**MODAL VERBS**

I . C A N V I . W I L L

I I . M A Y V I I . S H O U L D I I I . M U S T V I I I . W O U L D

I V . O U G H T T O I X . N E E D (semi-modal)

V . S H A L L X . D A R E (sometimes behaves like a modal)

**CAN**

It expresses physical ability or mental potential to do something (Exprimă capacitatea fizică sau

mentală - A PUTEA).

Ex: He cannot ride a horse. = El nu poate (nu ştie) să călărească.

She can read Russian. = Ea poate (ştie) să citească în rusă.

**C O U L D**

- for Past Tense Ex: He could speak German fluently when he was younger.

= El putea să vorbească germana fluent când era mai tânăr.

- for Present Conditional Ex: I could ask her to help you if you need it.

= Aş putea să o rog să te ajute dacă e nevoie

**C O U L D H A V E + V ( I I I )** - for the Past Conditional

Ex: He could have arrived earlier. = Ar fi putut să sosească mai devreme.

She couldn’t have come to our party, anyway. = Oricum, ea n-ar fi putut

veni la

petrecerea noastră.

**T O B E A B L E T O** - for the other tenses (se foloseşte pentru toate timpurile, mai ales la cele la care CAN nu poate fi folosit)

Ex.: They will be able to come here tomorow = El va putea veni aici mâine. They had been able to buy a new house before selling the old one. = Putuseră să îşi cumpere o casă nouă înainte de a-şi vinde vechea casă.

**N O T E f o r a d v a n c e d s t u d e n t s :**

In the past, COULD cannot reffer to one single successfull achievement, in a particular situation.

Ex.:I ran fast and so I could catch the bus = not correct

I ran fast, so I was able to catch the bus. = correct

The negative COULDN’T is possible in all situations. Ex. I ran fast but couldn’t catch the bus.

It also expresses permission when the speaker is almost sure of having it. (exprimă

permisiunea, când vorbitorul este aproape sigur că I se dă voie)

Ex.: Can I smoke here? (there is no restrict here) = Pot să fumez aici? (nu există nici un anun

cu `fumatul interzis’)

Usually, with may people ask permission, whereas with can people know they have permission (în general, cu may se cere voie, cu can se ştie că este voie)

Ex.: Residents can use the car park without a ticket. = Locatarii pot (au voie) folosi parcarea fără bilet de intrare.

**MAY**

It expresses permission- (exprimă permisiunea)

Ex.: You may work in my office d you like. = Po i să lucrezi în biroul meu, dacă î i face plăcere.

May I borrow your car? No, you may not = Îmi dai voie să î i îimprumut maşina? Nu, nu ei voie.

In informal English, can often replace may (În engleza familiară, se foloseşte adesea **can** în loc de

**may**)

Ex.: May I open the window, Sir? (Can I open the window, Tom?)

**TO BE ALLOWED TO** - for all the tenses (se foloseşte pentru toate timpurile, **may** neputând fi folosit decât pentru prezent).

Ex: I’ll be allowed to drive when I’m eighteen. = Voi avea voie să conduc când voi avea 18 ani.

He would leave the country if I were allowed to. = El ar pleca din ară dacă ar avea voie.

**MUST, NEED, SHOULD, OUGHT TO MUST**

It expresses necessity, obligation. (Exprimă necesitatea, obliga ia)

Ex.: Candidates must answer the following questions. = Candida ii trebuie să răspundă la următoarele întrebări.

Negation:

**MUST NOT** expresses **interdiction, prohibition (**exprimă interdic ia**)**

Ex.: You mustn’t go out. = Nu trebuie so ieşi afară (pentru că nu ai voie sau nu e bine)

**NEED NOT DO NOT HAVE TO** express the **lack of obligation** (exprimă lipsa obliga iei)

Ex.: You needn’t go out. = You don’t have to go out. if isn’t necessary) = Nu este nevoie să ieşi afară

=Nu trebuie să ieşi afară (dacă nu vrei)

**TO HAVE TO**

- for all the tenses (se foloseşte pentru toate timpurile, must neputând fi folosit decât pentru prezent)

Ex . You will have to wait. = Va trebui să aştep i.

You had had to wait before you answered. =A trebuit să aştep i înainte de a răspunde.

**NOTE for advanced students**: In Reported Speech, MUST can be left unchanged. Ex.: I said he must tell me the truth.

**NEED**

It shows the **attitude of the speaker towards the obligation.** (Se traduce tot prin “trebuie”, dar arată

atitudinea vorbitorului fa ă de obliga ie)

Ex.: Need I get up so early? Yes. I’m afraid you must. = Chiar trebuie să mă trezesc aşa devreme? Da, mi-e teamă că trebuie.

You needn’t see the doctor I you don’t want to. (my opinion is that it is not necessary) = Nu, trebuie să mergi la doctor dacă nu vrei. (părerea mea este că nu este necesar)

**SHOULD**

It expresses present obligation, duty, moral obligation. Generally, it is used for advice, without

imposing one’s opinion. (Se traduce cu “ar trebui” şi exprimă o obliga ie morală prezentă, o datorie. În general, se foloseşte pentru a exprima sfatul, lipsa impunerii opiniei cuiva)

Ex.: You should work a Iittle more. = Ar trebui să lucrezi mai mult.

**OUGHT TO**

It expresses the same as should, but the advice is stronger, more formal. (Exprimă acelaşi

lucru ca şi should, dar sfatul este mai puternic, mai oficial)

Ex.- Drivers ought to drive more carefully during night. = Şoferii ar trebui să conducă mai atent pe timp de noapte.

For past time reference - SHOULD / OUGHT TO + Perfect Infinitive

Ex.: You should have worked a little more. = Ar fi trebuit să lucrezi mai mult.

You ought to have driven more carefully. =Ar fi trebuit să conduci mai atent.

**NOTE:**

SHOULD/OUGHT TO - possibility of non-action available.

MUST - never implies the idea of non-action

**SHALL**

It expresses (exprimă):

- **promise, determination** (promisiune, hotărâre)

Ex: We shall right and we shall will = Vom lupta şi vom învinge.

Ex.: I shall give you a doll.You shall have it. (I promise you) = Î i promit că î i voi da o păpuşă.

- obligation and necessity independent of human will, at any time (adevăr valabil, indiferent de voin a umană)

Ex.: All shall die. = To i vom muri.

- widely used in rhetorical questions (foarte folosit în întrebări retorice) Ex.: What shall I do? Whom shall I help? = Ce să fac? Pe care s-o ajut?

- volitional obligation (2nd and 3rd persons particularly) (obliga ie, mai ales folosit cu pers. l şi a lll-a)

Ex.: You shall do what you are told. = Vei face ce i se cere.

- question-tag for the Imperative 1st pers (întrebare disjunctivă - nu-i aşa? - pentru

Imperativ, pers. I

Ex.: Let’s go, shall we? = Hai să mergem, vrei?

- suggestion (sugestie)

Ex : Shall we leave for Greece? = Să mergem în Grecia? –

- polite offer (oferta politicoasă)

Ex.: Shall I help you? = Pot să vă ajut?

**WILL**

It is used to express (este folosit pentru a exprima):

- intention, volition (inten ia)

Ex: I will buy this car. = Inten ionez să cumpăr această maşină.

Used in the negative: refusal. With inanimate: lack of activity (Folosit la negativ, exprimă

refuzul. Dacă subiectul nu este fiin ă, exprimă lipsa activită ii) Ex.: He won’t do that. I say! = Î i spun că nu va vrea să facă asta

The door will not open. = Uşa nu vrea să se deschidă.

- invitation (o invita ie) Ex: Will you have a drink? =Doreşti să bei ceva?

- a polite request (cerere pofiticoasă)

Ex.: Will you help me to move the piano? = Vrei să mă aju i să mut pianul?

- a command (un ordin)

Ex.: You will work 12 hours a day, is it clear? = Vei munci 12 ore pe zi, e clar?

**WOULD**

- It replaces USED TO, expressing past repetitive actions. (Folosit, ca şi USED TO, pentru a

exprima ac iuni care obişnuiau să aibă loc în trecut. Este înso it de obicei de adverbe de timp care arată frecven a sau timpul trecut). It usually goes with time adverbials: sometimes, often, occasionally, now and then, always, every day.

Ex: He would smoke a cigarette every day. = Obişnuia să fumeze o igară pe zi.

Time adverbials are not necessary with USED TO. (În expresia USED TO sunt incluse ideea de frecven a şi de perioada încheiată demult, adverbele nefiind necesare).

Ex.: He used to smoke. = Obişnuia să fumeze.

- past intention, past volition (inten ie în trecut)

Ex.: When I needed him, he wouldn’t help me. = Când am avut nevoie de el, nu a vrut să

mă ajute.

- very polite offer or request (ofertă sau cerere foarte politicoasă)

Ex.: Would you please be so kind to help me with the luggage? = Sunte i amabil să mă

ajuta i să duc bagajul?

Would you like same more tea? = Mai dori i ceai?

**DARE**

It is a semi-modal verb. It expresses courage, independence. (Este un verb semi-modal şi se

traduce prin a îndrăzni’).

Ex: How dare she / does she dare to misinform him? =Cum îndrăzneşte să îl informeze greşit?

**RELATED NON-MODAL EXPRESSIONS**

WOULD RATHER - it shows the preference. (Exprimă peferin a).

Ex : I would rather go there. = Aş prefera să merg acolo. I’d rather you went there. = Aş

pretera ca tu să mergi acolo. (Synthetic Subjunctive)

HAD BETTER - it is a recommendation and refers only to the present or future (Exprimă

recomandarea, se referă numai la prezent sau la vidor)

Ex.: You’d better not phone her again. = Ar fi mai bine să nu o suni iar

BE BOUND TO - it makes a future prediction of certainty or an obligation (Exprimă

prezicerea cu siguran a a unei ac iuni viitoare sau o obliga ie). Ex: It’s bound to rain tomorrow. = Sigur va ploua mâine.

I am bound to write this paper. = Trebuie să scriu această lucrare.

**POSSIBILITY, PROBABILITY, IMPOSSIBILITY POSSIBILITY**

Possibility may be expressed with expressions... (Posibilitatea poate fi exprimată prin expresii): it’s possible, possibly. perhaps, maybe, it’s not very likely

or with modals (sau prin verbe modale):

Present: MAY / MIGHT / CAN + Infinitive

Ex: She may be at home. = E posibil ca ea să fie acasă.

She might be at home now. (stronger doubt) = E posibil ca ea să fie acasă. (îndoiala este mai mare)

Can the news of the accident be true? = E posibil ca ştirea despre accident să fie adevărată?

Past: MAY / MIGHT l CAN + Perfect Infinitive

Ex.: She may have had an accident. = It is possible that she had an accident. = E

posibil ca ea să fi avut un accident.

She might have had an accident = Luckily she didn’t have an accident. = S- ar fi putut ca ea să fi avut un accident (Din fericire, nu a avut)

**PROBABILITY**

Probability may be expressed with expressions... (Probabilitatea poate fi exprimată prin expresii): I’m sure / certain / positive certainly obviously it’s likely it’s probable

or with modals (sau prin verbe modale): Present: MUST + Infinitive

Ex: She must be at home now. (She told me she had a lot of work to do) = Trebuie să fie acasă acum. (A spus că are mult de lucru)

Past MUST + Perfect Infinitive

Ex: She must have had an accident. (I have reason to think so)

= Trebuie să fi avut un accident. (Am motive să cred acest lucru)

**IMPOSSIBILITY**

Impossibility may be expressed with expressions... (Imposibilitatea poate fi exprimată prin expresii); it’s impossible, it’s unlikely

or with modals (sau prin verbe modale):

Present CANNOT / COULD NOT + Infinitive

Ex: She can’t be al home now. ( I am positive she is not at home.)

= Nu se poate ca ea să fie acasă acum. (Sunt absolut sigur că nu este acasă) She couldn’t behave like that ( stronger belief)

= Este imposibil Nu se poate ca ea să se poarte aşa!. (siguran a rnai putemică)

Past: CANNOT + Perfect Infinitive

Ex: She can’t have had an engine trouble. (I checked before she left)

= Este imposibil sa fi avut o problema de motor. (L-am verificat înainte de plecarea ei)

She couldn’t have been there at 8.00 yesterday. (She was with me.)

= Este imposibil ca ea să fi fost acolo la ora 8.00 ieri. (Era cu mine)

**MODAL VERBS - EXERCISES**

**ELEMENTARY**

1. Express ability using the given time expressions, first for the past and then for the future. (Exprima i capacitatea inând cont de expresiile temporale care cer trecut sau viitor)

Example: You can drive.

You could drive after you got your licence. // You will be able to drive when you are 18.

1. He can play chess.

.................. when he was young.

.................................after you explain him the rules.

2. We can do this exercice.

...................................... last week.

…………………………next week.

3. She can cook very well.

.......................................when I knew her.

.........................with more practice.

4. She can read easily.

................................................ before her eye trouble.

...............................................with her new glasses.

2. Express permission using the given time expressions, first for the past and then for the future. (Exprima i permisiunea inând cont de expresiile temporale care cer trecut sau viitor)

Example: You may drive my car, I don’t need it today.

You were allowed to drive my car as I didn’t need it. // You will be allowed to drive my car tomorrow, as I won’t need it.

1. He may play with his friends.

………............... after he had finished his homework.

.........................................after he finishes his homework.

2. We may smoke in this room.

......................................... as there wasn’t any non-smoker. ...

.......................................if the old woman leaves.

3. She may wear her cousin’s dress.

.......................................... yesterday.

..............................................next week.

4. She may miss the classes if she is ill. ................................................when she was ill.

..............................................when she goes abroad.

3. Express obligation using the given time expressions, first for the past and then for the future. (Exprima i obliga ia inând cont de expresiile temporale care cer trecut sau viitor)

Example: I must wash the windows.

I had to wash the windows when he called me. // I will have to wash the windows tomorrow.

1. They must leave the movie before it ends.

.............................. earlier yesterday.

.......................................... earlier tomorrow.

2. She must go to school every day.

……………………..in another town when she was younger.

......................................... only in the evenings next year.

3. I must help my brother with his mathematics lessons

..............................................last week.

.................................................next week.

4. Complete the sentences by NOT TO HAVE TO to express lack of obligation and by MUST NOT to express interdiction. (Completa i spa iile libere folosind NOT TO HAVE To pentru a exprima lipsa obliga iei si MUST NOT pentru a exprima

interdic ia).

Example: You must not drive the car. You are too young for this.

You don’t have to drive the car if you’re tired. I can do it.

1. She ...........................come again at the hospital. She’s recovered now.

2. They .......................... watch TV too long. They have school tomorrow.

3. I ................................. spend all my money this week. What shall I do next week?

4. My sister ................................... go to work. Her husband earns a lot.

5. You .................................... be rich to be my girl. I love you as you are.

6. You .......................... lie to me, son. Otherwise I’ll punish you.

5. You are giving advice to a friend. Use SHOULD Or SHOULDN’T (Da i unele sfaturi unui prieten. Folosi i SHOULD sau SHOULDN’T):

Example: Your friend coughs a lot because of smoking. (stop smoking) You should stop smoking.

1. He has a bad toothache. (go to the dentist) ……………..............

2. He has been offered a job (accept it) ...............................

3. He has a cold. (stay at home) ....................................

4. He is going to visit Greece (learn some Greek words)................................

**I N T E R M E D I A T E**

6. Make sentences to give possible explanations of the following situations. Use MAY, M U S T , M I G H T COULD:

Example: Does John love Gaugain? He might, but he may prefer Van Gogh

1. Where is Mary going this evening? .......................................

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2. | I wonder if Tom will meet us tomorrow. | .................................... |
| 3. | What Is he thinking of? He’s absent-minded | .................................... |
| 4. | Why are the children fighting? | ……............................ |
| 5. | Is she crying or laughing? | ................................... |

7. Say what is likely to happen in the following situations: Example: Will Jim accept that job?

He must accept it; he’s always wanted to be that

1. Do you think Diane is home? ....................................

2. Are you sure we have enough money?.......................................

3. Would I learn easily to ski? ........................................

4. Is he going to help us with the translation? ……..........................

8. Express impossibility for the following situations

Example: Bob is rude with his aunt.

You can’t talk about my Bob, he is very polite.

1. Sue is afraid of darkness. …………………………………..

2. Father doesn’t allow me to see Pete .............................................

3. Robert won’t come to our Sunday party .............................................

4. Pat doesn’t answer the phone .............................................

9. Use WILL or SHALL to fill the spaces in the following sentences:

1. We............. not let the enemy triumph.

2. We’ve lost our way. What…………….we do now?

3. Someone’s ringing. That……………..be the postman.

4. ................... pass me the salt, please?

5. .................. I help you with your luggage, young lady?

6. Excuse me, Sir, ................. you be kind to tell me the time?

7. I ................. tell you the truth when I know it, I promise.

8. You ............... not go out the entire week, did I make myself clear?

9. Let’s play hide-and-seek, . ................ we?

10. Use SHOULD to express advice and OUGHT TO to express a stronger duty.

1. We ...................... (not) let the children out late in the evening.

2. I ......................... study, but I’m going to the cinema.

3. You don’t look well, I think you ..................... see a doctor.

4. Drivers ...................... wear safety belts when driving.

5. If you’re heading to the Alps, you ..................... take some warm clothes with you.

6. They ....................... try this cocktail. It’s really something, I’ve tried it myself.

11. Say whether WOULD has been used to express a past habit instead of USED TO (H), past volition (V) or a polite invitation (I):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Would you like some more tea? | () |
| 2. In my youth I would often spent my nights in pubs. | () |
| 3. I already know Tom wouldn’t accept the job. | () |
| 4. I asked him the truth but he wouldn’t tell it to me | () |

5. Would you be so kind to answer a few delicate questions? ()

6. My parents would most of the time tell me what to do. Now I’m adult and still don’t know what’s good and what’s wrong. ()

7. As a child I would oftenclimb the trees and jump down. ()

**ADVANCED**

12. Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the words in capitals, and so that the meaning stays the same.

1. This climb is possibly dangerous. COULD

……………......................................................

2. I’m sure that’s Marion at the door. WILL

……………......................................................

3. It makes no difference if we call it off. MAY

……………......................................................

4. Don’t bother lying to me. NEED.

……………......................................................

5. Although it’s summer, the temperature is more like winter. MAY

……………......................................................

6. That’s not typical of Helen’s behaviour. WOULD

……………......................................................

7. It would be impossible to tell Sally the truth. POSSIBLY

……………......................................................

8. I don’t think Harry is likely to resign. WOULD

……………......................................................

9. Do you want me to turn off the oven or not? SHOULD

……………......................................................

10. It is forbidden to make notes on the library books. MUST

13. Complete each sentence with a suitable word or phrase:

1. What about this meat? ....................... I roast it or stew it?

2. Thank you for offering, but I ........................ possibly accept.

3. Harry studies a lot. He ................... pass the exam.

4. Oh, well, things......... ................ be much worse I suppose.

5. It’s no use waiting here. We ....................... very well start walking.

6. Jack refuses. He says it’s wrong and he .......................... do it.

7. Cairo ....................... be quite cold in winter.

8. Rule no. 6: No member ..................... enter the club without this card.

9. You ................ be right but I still don’t agree with you.

14. Complete the comment at the end of each sentence:

1. Pay no attention to what Martin said. He can’t have been serious.

2. Fancy accepting the job just like that! You ...................... asked me first!

3. The test was no problem at all. It .............................. easier in fact.

4. I’m sure Jack didn’t mean to ignore you. He ....................... noticed you.

5. That was a lucky escape! They .................................... killed.

6. Hello, I’m home early. I ................................... late at the office after all.

7. The meat is a bit burnt. You ................................. cooked it for so long!

8. There were plenty of tickets left for the concert. We ........................ them in advance.

9. Sally got home at four o’clock this morning. The party ........................... really good!

10. This homework is not as good as usual. I think you .........................more time on it.

15. Put one suitable word in each space. Words with n’t count as one word:

1. I could have become millionaire a I decided not to.

2. You ................. have been here when Helen told the boss not to be so lazy!’

3. Peter wasn’t here then, so he .................... have broken your vase.

4. I ................. have bought the car, but I decided to look at a few others.

5. If you felt lonely, you ............. have given me a ring.

6. Don’t take a risk like that again! We .................... have lost because of you.

7. It’s been more than a week! You …………..have some news by now.

8. We were glad to help. We .................. have just stood by and done nothing.

9. You really.............. have gone to so much trouble!

10. I ................... have thought that it was rather difficult.