

Verbos Modales – Modals

- A. **Modal verbs, for example *Must, Could or Can* are NEVER used alone.**
They combine with other verbs to talk about...

Possibility or probability / to say something isn't necessary / permission / prohibition or obligation / recommendation / ability.

1. Prohibition or Obligation You mustn't smoke here. / You must do your homework. No debes fumar aquí / Debes hacer tus deberes.
2. Recommendation You should ask your teacher if you have a question. Deberías preguntar a tu professor si tienes alguna pregunta.
3. Permission You can go now. Puedes ir ahora
4. To say something isn't necessary You needn't do the washing-up, I'll do it. No es necesario que fregues, yo lo hare.
5. Ability You can buy stamps at the Post office but there might be a queue. Puedes comprar sellos en Correos, pero debe haber cola.

Formas negativas de los Verbos modales

Will = will not – won't

Can = cannot – can't

Could = could not – couldn't

Should = should not – shouldn't

Might = might not

Must = must not – musn't

Shall = shall not – shan't

Would = would not – wouldn't

- B. **You NEVER use 'to' after a modal.** You make a question by using inversion.

Have to, have got to, don't have to and *need to* are NOT modals. They are different grammatically (you use *to* after them and make the question with an auxiliary, for example: *Do I have to copy this?*)

BUT we use *have to, have got to, don't have to* and *need to* in the same situations as we use modals.

- You needn't do the washing-up: You don't have to do the washing-up.
- You must do your homework: You have to do your homework.