

Modal Verbs

What are MODAL VERBS?

Modal verbs...

- are **special verbs** which behave differently from normal verbs.
- only exist as auxiliary verbs; they can not be the main verb of a sentence.
- are used to **express ideas** such as *possibility, intention, obligation, advice* and *necessity*.

Modal Verbs

- have no **-s** in the third person singular (except – need to and ‘have to – has to’)
- Questions and negatives are made without the verb to do.
- are always followed by the infinitive form without to.

Ex.: Modal verb + infinitive

Modal Verbs

Let's look at some modal verbs...

MUST - *Must* can only be used in the present

- In the past "had to" is used

- **To express necessity**

*We **must** protect animals in danger.*

- **To express obligation**

*We **must** teach children to recycle.*

Modal Verbs

MUST vs HAVE TO

- To express **obligation** we can use **must** and **have to**

- **Must** is an obligation that I decide.

I must study.

- **Have to** is an obligation that someone else decides for me.

We have to do the homework. (My teacher decided)

Modal Verbs

MUSTN'T

- **To express prohibition**

*Companies **mustn't** pollute rivers.*

Modal Verbs

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

Should - *should* can only be used in the present

- **To express an advice**

*We **should** make campaigns to stop pollution.*

*You **shouldn't** eat so much meat.*

Modal Verbs

NEED TO/ NEEDN'T TO

Need to

- **To express a necessity (almost an obligation)**

*We **need to** take care of the environment.*

*She **needs to** plant more trees in her garden.*

Needn't

- **To express that it's not necessary**

*You **needn't** water the plant when it's raining.*