



Look at Tom. He has just bought another new car. He **must** earn a lot of money.

Barbara hasn't got her passport yet. She **can't** go with us to France.

It **may** rain tomorrow. We aren't sure.



Modal Verbs

Modals of deduction: Certainty, Impossibility, Possibility



Present modal: Must, can't, may, can, might

Present	must	Certainty	Look at Tom. He has just bought another new car. He must earn a lot of money.
	can't	Impossibility	Barbara hasn't got her passport yet. She can't go with us to France.
	may; can; might	Possibility	It may rain tomorrow. We aren't sure.

Modals of deduction: Certainty, Impossibility, Possibility



Past modals: Must, can't, may, can, might

Past	must have + past participle (pp)	Certainty	We haven't seen Bob for a long time. He must have changed his job.
	can't have + pp	Impossibility	Barbara can't have asked for the visa because she didn't have her passport at that time.
	may/can/might have + pp	Possibility	The Browns weren't at home yesterday. They might have gone out for a picnic.

Modals of obligation



Present and past

Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- must/ have to + verb without 'to'- ought to + verb- should + verb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- You must respect the law.- You ought to wait until Tom finishes.- You shouldn't interrupt your boss.
Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- had to + infinitive- ought to have + pp- should have + pp	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- You had to bring your report on time.- You ought to have stopped when you felt tired.- The driver should have driven more carefully.

Passive voice with modals

Present and past



	Modals	Passive
Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- can/can't do- must do- should/could/would do- ought to do- have to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- can/can't be done- must be done- should/could/would be done- ought to be done- have to be done
Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- can/must have done- had to do- ought to have done	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- can/must have been done- had to be done- ought to have been done



B. What do the following people express?

a. Possibility in the past; **b.** Certainty in the past; or **c.** Impossibility in the past?

1. Sarah *can't have known* about your illness. Otherwise, she would have visited you. (...)
2. Barbara didn't visit us last week. She *must have been* very busy. (...)
3. Simon *may have forgotten* about my birthday. He didn't come to the party. (...)



C. Match the speakers with each of the following statements, then say which modal verbs are in the present and which ones are in the past.

1. NGO representative to citizens.

2. Teacher to students.

3. Consultant to investor.

a. You must revise your lessons regularly if you want to improve your level.

b. You ought to consider all offers before you choose one.

c. You should participate in the development of your city or your village.

d. You ought to join an association to be active members in your society.

e. You should have bought cheap pieces of land.

f. You had to study English seriously during the previous two years.



Worksheets exercises