

Modal verbs

can

moci, umět

must

muset

may

smět

shall

mít (povinnost)

would (will)

podmiňovací způsob

What are Modal Verbs?

We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not).

We also use modals to do things like talking about **ability**, asking **permission**, making **requests** and **offers**, and so on.

Grammar

Modal verbs are special verbs which behave differently from normal verbs. Here are some important differences:

1. Modal verbs **do not take** „-s“ in the third person.

Example: He can speak Chinese.

2. There is **no** „do“ used in negative or interrogative sentences.

Example: He can't swim. Can they come?

3. Modal verbs are followed by infinitive **without** „to“ (**no –ing forms**) – He can dance.

4. They have in all persons **the same form**.

CAN

"Can" is one of the most commonly used modal verbs in English.

I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they **can**

I etc. **cannot** (I can't) can I?

I etc. could - mohl (uměl) bych, mohl (uměl) jsem

OPIS – be able to

I was able to - mohl jsem, uměl jsem

I would be able to – mohl bych, uměl bych

I will be able to – budu moci, budu umět

MUST

I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they must

OPIS – have to

I have to – musím

I had to – musel jsem

I would have to – musel bych

I will have to – budu muset

NEED NOT

I etc. need not (needn't) nemusím

OPIS – don't have to

I don't have to – nemusím

I didn't have to – nemusel jsem

I wouldn't have to – nemusel bych

I won't have to – nebudu muset

MAY– smět

I may - smím (MAY – také „možná“)

I might směl bych

OPIS – I am allowed to

I am allowed to – smím

I was allowed to – směl jsem

I would be allowed to – směl bych

I will be allowed to – budu smět

MAY, MUST not – nesmět

I etc. must not (mustn't) may not nesmím

I might not nesměl bych

OPIS – I am not allowed to

I am not allowed to – nesmím

I wasn't allowed to – nesměl jsem

I wouldn't be allowed to – nesměl bych

I won't be allowed to – nebudu smět

SHALL

shall – mít povinnost

You shall go there. – Máš tam jít.

You should go there. – Měl bys tam jít.

(You should have written the answer
Měli jste napsat odpověď.)

SUMMARY

I CAN	– mohu, umím	– be able to
(I COULD	– mohl bych, uměl bych)	
I MAY	– smím	– be allowed to
I MAY NOT	– nesmím	– not to be allowed to
I MUST	– musím	– have to
I MUST NOT	– nesmím	– not to be allowed to
I NEED NOT	– nemusím	– I don't have to
I DON'T HAVE TO		– nemusím
Shall I leave?		– Mám odejít?
You should tell me.		– Měl bys mi to říci.
You should have told me.		– Měl jsi mi to říci.