

# 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 - MUSET

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 – NEMUSET – DO NOT HAVE TO

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 etc. may (needn't) smím

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 won't be allowed to – nebudu 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

# SUMMARY

I CAN	– mohu, umím	- I am able to
I MAY	– smím	- I am allowed to
I MAY NOT	– nesmím	- I am not allowed to
I MUST	– musím	- I have to
I MUST NOT	– nesmím	- I am not allowed to
I NEED NOT	– nemusím	- I don't have to