Modal verbs

can	moci, umět
must	muset
may	smět
shall	mít (povinnost)
would (will)	podmiňovací způsob

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 – moci, umět

I can	I cannot (I can‘t)	can I?
you can		
he can		
she can		
it can		
we can		
you can		
they can		

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

It can be used to express ability or opportunity, to request or offer permission, and to show possibility or impossibility.

most commonly – nejobvyklejší
can be used – může být používán
to express – vyjádřit
ability – schopnost
opportunity – příležitost
to request – požadovat
offer – nabídnout
permission – dovolení
possibility – možnost
impossibility - nemožnost

- I **can** ride a horse. *ability*
- We **can** stay with my brother when we are in Paris. *opportunity*
- She **cannot** stay out after 10 PM. *permission*
- **Can** you hand me the letter? *request*
- Any child **can** grow up to be president. *possibility*

ability – schopnost
opportunity – příležitost
to request – požadovat
offer – nabídnout
permission – dovolení
possibility – možnost

COULD is used to express

possibility:

I could do it – Mohl bych to udělat.

past ability:

I could do it – Mohl jsem to udělat.

to make suggestions:

You could do it – Mohli byste to udělat.

requests:

Could you do it? – Mohli byste to udělat?

is used – se používá
to express – vyjádřit
request – požadavek
possibility – možnost
past ability – schopnost v minulosti

Examples:

- **Could** I use your computer to email my boss? *request*
- Extreme rain **could** cause the river to flood the city. *possibility*
- Nancy **could** ski like a pro by the age of 11. *past ability*
- You **could** see a movie or go out to dinner. *suggestion*

MAY

1. **May I help you?**
   (polite request)
2. **We may be late.**
   (we are not sure about something)
3. **You may not!**
   (emphatic refusal)

MIGHT

1. **<u>He asked me if he might come later</u>**
   (past tense of may)
2. **<u>We might be late.</u>**
   (we are not sure about something)
3. **<u>Might I ask you a question</u>**
   (very polite request)

MUST = HAVE TO

1. **I must take your BP** **(I have to take …)**
   (obligation, duty)
2. **You must drive carefully.** **(You have to drive …)**
   (necessity)
3. **It must be really cold outside.**
   (I am sure about sth)
4. You **must** see the new movie, it´s fantastic
   (strong recommendation)

MUST NOT = NESMĚT

1. **You must not (I mustn´t) come late.**
   (prohibition)
2. **He must not (he mustn´t) play football**
   (prohibition)
3. **They must not (he mustn´t) stay at home**
   (prohibition)
4. **We must not (he mustn´t) drive too fast**
   (prohibition)

NEED NOT = NEMUSET

1. **You need not (I needn´t) come early.**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
2. **He need not (he needn´t) leave**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
3. **They need not (they needn´t) stay at home**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
4. **We need not (we needn´t) drive fast**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)

DO NOT HAVE TO = NEMUSET

1. **You don´t have to come early.**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
2. **He doesn´t have to leave**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
3. **They don´t have to stay at home**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)
4. **We don´t have to drive fast**
   (there is no obligation, necessity)

SUMMARY

- I CAN – mohu, umím
- I COULD – mohl bych, uměl bych
- I MAY – smím
- I MAY NOT nesmím
- I MUST – musím
- I MUST NOT – nesmím
- I NEED NOT – nemusím
- I DON´T HAVE TO - nemusím