**Modal Verbs**

**CAN**

**Estructura**

Can + infinitive

Cannot, can’t + infinitive

Can + subject + infinitive?

**Uso**

* Poder, ser capaz de (habilidad)
* We use Can/can´t to talk about ability or inability to do something.

*I can speak Spanish*

*I can´t speak Japanese*

* We use can/can´t to talk about what is posible or imposible.
* We can use **Be able to** (ser capaz de) in the present, but it is more formal and less common.
* Can has no infinitive, we use **Be able to**, instead.

*I´d like to be able to speak a bit of Japanese.*

*I will be able to use my German and English*

*I haven´t been able to talk to her.*

**COULD**

**Estructura**

Could + infinitive

Couldn’t + infinitive

Could + subject + infinitive?

**Uso**

* When we talk about the past we can use **could** or **was/were able to.**
* To talk about general ability in the past.

*Ex: I could speak German*

* In affirmative sentences, when we talk about a particular action in the past, we use **was/were able to**.
* In negative we can use **couldn´t** or **wasn´t/weren´t able to**, although **couldn´t** is more common.
* Before verbs of perception (see, hear, feel…) and verbs like understand, we normally use **could**.

**CAN, COULD, MAY, WOULD in requests.**

* We use can, could, may (poder) to ask for things or permission.

*Ex:Can we have a table for two?*

*Ex: May we have the menú?*

*Ex: Could we sit over there?*

**Could** is more polite than **can**. **May** is more polite and formal than **could**.

* We also use these verbs to ask someone to do something.

*Ex: Can you give me the wine list?*

*Ex: Could you give us the wine list?*

*Ex: Would you take my coat, please?*

**Could** is more polite than **can**. **Would** is more polite than **could** and less common.

**CAN, COULD, MAY to give permission.**

* We use can, could or may to ask for permission.

*Ex: Can I smoke?*

*Ex: Could I smoke?*

*EX: May we use the phone?*

**Could** is more polite than **can**. **May** is more polite than **could**.

To give permission we normally use **can**.

Ex: Yes, you can

Ex: No, you can´t

**CAN and MAY for offers.**

* We use **Can I?/May I?** whe we offer to do something.

*Ex: Can I help toy with your coat?*

*Ex: May I help you with your coat?*

**Can I** is less formal and more common.

**WOULD LIKE in offers and invitations.**

* We use **Would like** to offer something or to offer to do something.

*Ex: would you like more coffee?*

*Ex: Would you like me to call him?*

* We use **would like** to invite someone to do something.

*Ex: Would you like to come to a party with me on Friday?*

**MUST ( deber – obligación) and HAVE TO (tener que - obligación)**

**Estructura**

Must + infinitive

Mustn’t + infinitive (no deber, prohibición)

Must + subject + infinitive

* Must no tiene forma de pasado. En su lugar usamos HAD TO.

Have to/has to + infinitive

Don´t have to/doesn´t have to + infinitive

Do/Does + subject + infinitive?

**Uso**

* We use **must** or **have to** tos ay that something is necessary or obligatory.

*Ex: Drivers must wear seat-belts*

*Ex: Drivers have to wear seat-belts*

* For questions, we normally use **have to.** Questions with **must** are less common.

**Diferencias entre Must y Have to**

* We use **must** to talk about an obligation that we impose on other people or on ourselves.

*Ex: I must go to the optician´s*

* We normally use **have to** when the obligation comes from outside the speaker.

*Ex: i have to go to the optician´s at 11:00.*

**MUSTN´T and DON´T HAVE TO**

* We use **mustn´t** to tell people not to do something, that something is wrong or against the law.

*Ex: You mustn´t drive at more than 90 kph*

* We use **Don´t have to** tos ay that there is no obligation to do something.

*Ex: He doesn´t have to drive so slowly (it isn´t necessary).*

**MUST HAVE , CAN´T HAVE**

* We use **must have + past participle** to say we are almost certain something hapenned in the past.

*Ex: You must have spent all your money*

* We use **can’t have + past participle** tos ay we think something was imposible.

**MAY (poder), MIGHT, COULD for present and future possibility.**

* We can use **may, might** and **could** when we want to say that something is posible (in the present or the future). There is no difference between them.

*Ex: He has got a very big dog. It may attack someone.*

 *It can be very dangerous*

* To make suggestions, we use **could**, not **may** or **might**.

*Ex: We could phone the police (shall we phone the police?)*

* We use **may not** or **might not**, to talk about possibility.

*Ex: It may not be dangerous*

**Couldn’t** means that something is totally imposible.

**MAY HAVE, MIGHT HAVE, COULD HAVE for past possibility**

* We use **may have, might have, could have + past participle** to say that somethig was posible in the past.

*Ex: It may have fallen asleep*

 *It might have fallen asleep*

* **Could have** can also mean that something was possible, but it didn’t happen.

*Ex: I could have passed that exam.*

* **Couldn’t have** means that something was totally impossible.

Ex: A thief couldn’t have got into the house. (It wasn’t possible)

**SHOULD, OUGHT TO (debería)**

* We use should + infinitive or ought to + infinitive when we think something is the right thing to do.

*Ex: Children should eat more fruit and vegetables.*

* We use shouldn´t (should not) or oughtn’t to (ought not to) when we think something is not a good idea.

*Ex: We shouldn’t use so much plastic*

**SHOULD HAVE, OUGHT TO HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE**

* We use should have or ought to have + past participle tos ay that something in the past was a mistake.

*Ex: I shouldn’t have driven so fast*

 *I ought to have gone by car*

**NEED (necesitar)**

* We use **need + infinitive** with to when we talk about an obligation or necessity in the presento r the furure.

*Ex: I need to drive when I’m 18*

 *You need to be careful*

* We use **don’t/doesn’t need to** or **needn’t** when we mean it isn’t necessary to do something. It means the same as Don’t have to.

*Ex: You passed your test, you don’t need to do it again*

 *You passed your test, you needn’t do it again.*

 **Form**

**Positive Negative**

I need to go I don’t need to go / I needn’t go

He needs to go He doesn’t need to go / He needn’t go

They need to go They don’t need to go / They needn’t go

**Question**

Do i need to go?

Does he need to go?

Do they need to go?

**NEEDN’T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE**

* We use **needn’t have + past participle** when someone did something that wasn´t necessary. It was a waste of time and effort.

*I needn’t have worried about it.*

**SHALL I / SHALL WE?**

* In questions, we use **shall I / Shall we** (and not will) when we make suggestions or offers.

*Ex: Shall we go to the beach? ¿Vamos a la playa?*

 *Shall I help you with your luggage? ¿Te ayudo con el equipaje?*

* In questions, we use **Will you?** to make a request.

*Ex: Will you hold my camera?*