

Some Examples of modal Verbs

MODAL	EXAMPLES	USES
CAN	He can find any street in London. You can take a taxi. Can you take me to Victoria Station?	<i>Ability</i> <i>Suggestion</i> <i>Request</i>
BE ABLE TO	He is able to find any street in London.	<i>Ability</i>
CAN'T	That story can't be true.	<i>Certainty that something is impossible</i>
COULD	I could play tennis when I was younger. Could you take me to Victoria Station? You could take a taxi.	<i>Ability</i> <i>Request</i> <i>Suggestion</i>
MAY	It may be quicker to travel by train. May I come in?	<i>Possibility</i> <i>Formal request/ Permission</i>
MIGHT	It might be quicker to travel by train.	<i>Possibility</i>
MUST	You must be back at 10 o'clock. Look at the snow. It must be cold outside.	<i>Obligation</i> <i>Certainty that something is true.</i>
HAVE TO	You have to be back at 10 o'clock.	<i>Obligation</i>
NEED TO	You need to study a lot.	<i>Obligation.</i>
NEEDN'T	You needn't have a university degree.	<i>Lack of obligation.</i>
MUSN'T	You mustn't drive without a license.	<i>Prohibition</i>
DON'T HAVE TO	You don't have to call a taxi.	<i>Lack of obligation</i>
SHOULD	You should drive more carefully.	<i>Opinion/Advice</i>
OUGHT TO	You ought to drive more carefully.	<i>Opinion/Advice</i>

Modal verbs and adverbs

Degree and modality = strength of your belief

Here are
some
examples

High words

Medium words

Low words

High
words

Certainly
Never
Must
Will
Clearly
Definitely
Is

Medium
words

Likely
Might
Can
Could
May
Possibly
Sometimes

Low
words

Occasionally
Should
Often
Perhaps