

Modal Verbs

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

1. Modal verbs do not take "-s" in the third person.

Examples:

- He can speak Chinese.
- She should be here by 9:00.

2. You use "not" to make modal verbs negative, even in Simple Present and Simple Past.

Examples:

- He should not be late.
- They might not come to the party.

3. Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.

Examples:

- ~~He will can go with us.~~
- ~~She musted study very hard.~~

Common Modal Verbs and their general meaning

Present/Future	Past	Meaning
Can	Could	Ability, permission (saber e poder) and possibility <i>I can play the piano</i> <i>Can I go out tonight?</i>
May	Might	Permission and possibility (poder) <i>May I ask you a question?</i> <i>Take an umbrella. It may rain</i>
Shall	Should (ought to)	Shall: to offer help and to make suggestions <i>Queres que ...?</i> <i>Qué tal se...?</i>



		<i>Shall I help you ?</i> <i>Shall we go out tonight?</i> Should: advice
Will	Would	Promises, habits <i>I will do my best, I promise</i> <i>He would always do the same</i>
Must	We use HAD TO in the past, but be careful HAVE TO is not a modal verb	Deduction and obligation (deber) <i>You must be John's son, your smile and your face is like his.</i> <i>I must get up at 7.30 on Mondays.</i>

Modal Forms

Modal verbs can be used in a variety of different forms. Study the examples below.

Modal Simple I could swim at the beach.	Passive Modal Simple The room should be cleaned once a day.
Modal Continuous I could be swimming at the beach right now.	Passive Modal Continuous The room should be being cleaned now.
Modal Perfect I could have swum at the beach yesterday.	Passive Modal Perfect The room should have been cleaned yesterday.
Modal Perfect Continuous I could have been swimming at the beach instead of working in the office.	

Sabes cando usar VERY (moi), TOO (demasiado), e ENOUGH (suficiente(mente))?

Observa os exemplos seguintes :

Very and Too + *adjective*

1. The exam is **very difficult**, but Jim can complete it.

2. The exam is **too difficult**. Jim can't complete it.

Very difficult = it is difficult but possible for Jim to complete the exam.

Too difficult = It is impossible for Jim to complete the exam.

Remember that **Too** implies a negative result.

Too + adjective + *infinitive*

- Alex couldn't play basketball because he was **too** short.
- Alex was **too** short *to play* basketball.
- We are **too** tired *to go* to the gym.
- Mary was **too** ill *to finish* her food.

Too + adjective + *for (someone)* + infinitive

- I can't walk to Valparaiso because it is **too** far.
- Valparaiso is **too** far *for me* to walk.
- It is **too** late *for me* to go out.
- The soup is **too** cold *for Tim* to eat.
- The price of the ticket is **too** expensive *for Mike* to fly to Europe.

Enough + *noun*

Enough

There was sufficient food for everybody at the party.

- There was **enough** *food* for everybody at the party.
- I had **enough** *money* to pay for dinner with my girlfriend.
- Is there **enough** *time* to finish the test?

Adjective + Enough

Everybody notices her because she is very pretty.

- She is *pretty* **enough** for everybody to notice her.
- My friend lives *close* **enough** to my house to walk.
- Last summer it was *hot* **enough** to go swimming every day.

Enough + *infinitive*

- When she lost her dog, it was **enough** *to make* her cry.
- He was sick **enough** *to stay* home from work today.
- I arrived at the airport early **enough** *to make* my flight to New York.

Sabías que **HAD BETTER** emprégase a miúdo para facer comparacións e tamén para expresar falta de esperanza e incluso para advertir aos demais ante algo? Observa os exemplos

- You **had better** take your umbrella with you today. *RECOMMENDATION*
- That bus **had better** get here soon! *DESPERATE HOPE*
- You **had better** watch the way you talk to me in the future! *WARNING*

Sabías que **HAD BETTER** pódese empregar en presente, pasado e futuro?

Observa os exemplos e fíxate nos usos desta expresión

Use	Positive Forms 1. = Present 2. = Past 3. = Future	Negative Forms 1. = Present 2. = Past 3. = Future	You can also use:
had better <i>RECOMMENDATION</i>	<p>1. SHIFT TO "SHOULD" OR "OUGHT TO" People should unplug toasters before they clean them.</p> <p>2. SHIFT TO "SHOULD HAVE" OR "OUGHT TO HAVE" You should have unplugged the toaster before you tried to clean it.</p> <p>3. You had better unplug the toaster before you try to clean it.</p>	<p>1. SHIFT TO "SHOULD" OR "OUGHT TO" People shouldn't clean toasters without unplugging them first.</p> <p>2. SHIFT TO "SHOULD HAVE" OR "OUGHT TO HAVE" You shouldn't have cleaned the toaster without unplugging it first.</p> <p>3. You had better not clean the toaster until you unplug it.</p>	should, ought to
had better <i>DESPERATE HOPE, WARNING</i>	<p>The movie had better end soon.</p> <p>They had better be here before we start dinner.</p> <p><i>DESPERATE HOPES AND WARNINGS USUALLY REFER TO THE NEAR FUTURE.</i></p>	<p>They had better not be late.</p> <p>They had better not forget Tom's birthday gift.</p> <p><i>DESPERATE HOPES AND WARNINGS USUALLY REFER TO THE NEAR FUTURE.</i></p>	
"Had better" is often simply pronounced as "better" in spoken English.			



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