

MODALS

(also known as “auxiliary verbs” or “helping verbs”)

Verbs that behave irregularly.

1. Followed by base verb or the dictionary form of the verb.
2. No final “-s” in 3rd person. No “-ing” form.
3. Used with “not” to make a negative statement or question. Used with ending “-n’t” in contractions.

YES	NO	PAST APPS.	ATTITUDE
can (be able to)	cannot (spelled as one word), can't can + pronoun + not (for question)	could	
could	could not, couldn't	could	weaker than “can”
may (be allowed to)	may not	might	
might	might not	might	weaker than “may”
must (have to) (need to)	must not, mustn't	had to	
ought to	ought not to	ought to	had the desire or obligation
should	should not, shouldn't	should	
will	will not, won't	would	
would	would not, wouldn't	would	
had better		had better	strong advice
used to		used to	was a regular activity in the past, but not anymore
be used to		was/were used to	not bothered by a strange or annoying thing, such as noise, smoke, children, animals

must + base verb	1) have to	I <u>must</u> go.
	2) logical conclusion about a habitual or repeated activity	He <u>must</u> eat a lot.
must + be + -ing verb	logical conclusion about a present or current activity	He's not answering his phone. He <u>must be</u> doing his homework.
must + have + past participle (been, gone, seen...)	logical conclusion about a past activity	The sidewalks are wet. It must have rained.

CONDITION → RESULT

If I study, I will pass the test. OR I will pass the test if I study.

If I had studied, I would have passed the test. (thinking about the past)

If I had gone to the movie, I would have seen her.

THINGS THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

He must have been here, but he isn't here now. (strong)

He might have been here,... (not as strong)

He may have been here,...

He could have been here, but we're not sure. (had the ability, time, or other resources)

He could have been here, but he wasn't and now I'm angry! (to express anger)

He would have been here, but he couldn't make it. (didn't have the ability, time, or other resources)

He should have been here,... (or "ought to")

He should have been here, but he wasn't and now I'm angry! (to express anger)