

UNIT 4

MODAL VERBS: CAN, COULD, MIGHT AND MAY (ABILITY AND POSSIBILITY)

Talking about ability and inability

- We use *can* / *can't* and *could* / *couldn't* to talk about ability or inability. They are followed by the infinitive without *to*.
Anna **can speak** French, but she **can't speak** Chinese.
Max **could walk** when he was a year old, but he **couldn't talk** until he was two.

Can Anna speak French?

Yes, she **can**.

Can she speak Chinese?

No, she **can't**.

Could Max walk when he was one?

Yes, he **could**.

Could he talk when he was one?

No, he **couldn't**.

Talking about possibility

- We use *might*, *may* and *could* to talk about possibilities in the present or the future. We use *can* to talk about possibilities in the present but not the future. These modal verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to*.
*It **might be** very hot tomorrow.*
*We **may go** swimming this afternoon.*
*There **could be** a storm later this evening.*
*It **can snow** here in April, but it doesn't often happen.*
- To talk about negative possibilities, we can use *may not* or *might not*, but not *can not* or *could not*.
*Laura is not feeling well, so she **may not go** to work today.*
*You have to accept that you **might not win** the lottery this week.*
- The form of these verbs never changes. For example, we cannot say *He ~~can's~~* / *They ~~mighted~~*.
- We can use *May I ...?* or *Could I ...?* to ask for permission.
May I sit here?
- We rarely use the short form *mightn't*. We don't use *mayn't*.

PRACTICE

- Complete the sentences with *can*, *can't*, *could*, *couldn't*, *may* or *might*. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- I've looked for my phone, but I can't find it.
- My brother could swim when he was four years old.
- I'm not sure what to do tomorrow. I could go to Jo's party.

4. She isn't looking very well. I think she ..may..... have flu.
5. I can..... play the piano but I don't play very often.
6. Kieran can't..... drive a car until he was nearly 30.

2. Match the sentence beginnings (1-5) with the endings (a-e). Then choose the best modal verb in *italics*.

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. I don't know where Luis is.
He <i>may / can</i> |  | a be one of my friends. |
| 2. I have some free time, so I
can / might |  | b make you stressed. |
| 3. There's someone at the door.
It <i>may / can</i> |  | c see her. |
| 4. We need to tidy up. Our friends
<i>can / could</i> |  | d still be at university. |
| 5. Working too hard
<i>can / could</i> |  | e arrive at any minute. |

MODAL VERBS: SHOULD, SHOULDN'T, OUGHT TO, MUST, MUSTN'T, HAVE TO, DON'T HAVE TO (OBLIGATION AND PROHIBITION)

Should/shouldn't

- We use *should/shouldn't* to give or ask for advice.
Should/shouldn't are followed by the infinitive without *to*.
You **should join** a gym if you want to keep fit.
You **shouldn't eat** too much chocolate.
What **should I do**?
- An alternative to *should* is *ought to* + infinitive.
This is more formal.

must, have to

- We use *must* and *have to* to express obligation.
You **must take** your passport with you when you travel abroad.
We **have to show** our passports when we cross the border.
- We often use *must* to talk about rules or laws which we agree with or believe in.
We **must wear** a seat belt in the car, even for short journeys.
- We often use *have to* to talk about rules or laws which were made by someone else or which we may not agree with.
My teacher says that I have to finish the homework tonight or I'll be in trouble.
My teacher says that I **have to finish** the homework tonight or I'll be in trouble.

don't have to

- Use *don't have to* or *needn't* (but not *mustn't*) when it's not necessary to do something.
We didn't have to show our passports when we went to Scotland.
We don't need to wear smart clothes to the office.

can/can't

- We can also use *can/can't* to express permission or lack of permission.
*You **can leave** any time you like.*
*You **can't bring** animals in here.*
***Can I use** your phone, please?*

mustn't

- Use *mustn't* to express prohibition, to say that something is not allowed.
*You **mustn't use** your phone in the cinema.*
- We can also use *can't* instead of *mustn't*.
*You **can't talk** during the exam.*
- There is no past tense form of *mustn't*. Use *not allowed to*.
*We **weren't allowed to go** into the concert without a ticket.*

PRACTICE

1. Choose the correct verbs in *italics*.

When my grandfather was young, children (1) *must not / didn't have* to stay at school until the age 18 or even 16. They (2) *could / couldn't* leave when they were 14. My grandfather had no choice. He (3) *had to / didn't have to* go out and earn money for his family. At the end of every week he (4) *could / had to* give his wages to his mother. She gave him a small amount of money which he (5) *had to / could* spend as he liked. When he was 18, he wanted to join the army, but he failed the medical examination so he (6) *had to / couldn't* do military service. This meant he couldn't fight for his country. Instead of being a soldier, he drove an ambulance.

ADJECTIVES WITH – ED AND – ING ENDINGS

Many English adjectives which end in -ing or -ed are formed from verbs.

verb	Adjectives
<i>relax</i>	<i>relaxed / relaxing</i>
<i>surprise</i>	<i>surprised / surprising</i>

- Adjectives which end in -ed tell us how a person feels.

*I'm going to bed because I'm **tired**.*

- Adjectives which end in *-ing* describe the effect of something.
*I'm going to bed. I've had a **tiring** day at work.*

PRACTICE

1. Choose the correct adjectives in italics.

1. **A:** Did you see that *interested* / *interesting* programme about the moon on TV last night?

B: No, I'm not really *interested* / *interesting* in space.

2. **A:** You look very *relaxed* / *relaxing*. Did you have a good holiday?

B: No, it wasn't *relaxed* / *relaxing* at all! I was ill.

3. **A:** What do you find most *annoyed* / *annoying* about your older brother?

B: Everything he does makes me *annoyed* / *annoying*.

4. **A:** What's happened? You look really *excited* / *exciting*.

B: Yes, I've just heard that I've won first prize in a competition, It's so *excited* / *exciting*!

PRESENT PERFECT

We use the present perfect to connect the present with the past.

Positive/Negative Forms		
I/You/We/They	have/’ve have not/haven’t	finished work.
He/She/It	has/’s has not / hasn’t	

Question forms and short answers		
Have	I/you/we/they	finished work?
Has	He/she/it	
Yes,	I/you/we/they	have.

	He/she/it	has.
No,	I/you/we/they	haven't.
	He/she/it	hasn't.

- The present perfect is formed with the correct form of *have* in the present and the past participle of the main verb. The past participle of regular verbs and some irregular verbs is the same as the past simple. The past participle is underlined in the examples below.

past simple	present perfect
<i>I <u>finished</u> work.</i>	<i>I have <u>finished</u> work.</i>
<i>He <u>bought</u> a sandwich.</i>	<i>He has <u>bought</u> a sandwich.</i>

- Some irregular verbs have past participles which are not the same as the past simple form.

past simple	present perfect
<i>She <u>ate</u> her lunch.</i>	<i>She has <u>eaten</u> her lunch.</i>
<i>She <u>wrote</u> a letter.</i>	<i>She has <u>written</u> a letter.</i>

We use the present perfect to talk about:

- something which started in the past and is connected with the present:
*Ed **has broken** his leg, so he can't play football this weekend.*
- something which started in the past and is still true:
*Ben and Karen **have lived** in London for seven years.*
- past experiences which refer to an unstated time in the past, often with ever and never:
*Anna **has been** to Brazil, but she **has never been** to Canada.*

- recent past actions:

***Have** you **done** your English homework?*

Just, already and yet.

- *Just* = very recently, a short time ago:

I've just emailed Marcus and told him the good news.

- *already* = before now, often sooner than expected:

*He's **already** eaten his dinner, so he can go out with his friends.*

- *Just* and *already* are placed between *have/has* and the past participle.

- *yet* = *until now* is used in negative sentences and questions to talk about things we plan to do in the future, but which are not done. *Yet* is placed at the end of a sentence:

*I haven't finished my project **yet**.*

*Have you finished your project **yet**?*

PRACTICE

1 Complete the sentences with *already*, *just*, or *yet*.

1 I've.....*just*..... arrived home. I got here five minutes ago.

2 A: Let's tell our friends the news.

B: I've*just*..... told them. I told them last week.

3 I'm not hungry because I've*already*..... had lunch.

I ate earlier.

4 Have you met Benoit*yet*.....?

5 I haven't got dressed*just*..... because I've just woken up.

since and for

We can use *since* and *for* with the present perfect to talk about a time that started in the past and continues to the present.

- *since* is followed by the beginning of a period of time:

*We've lived here **since** December 2017.*

for is followed by a period of time:

*She's lived there **for** six and a half years.*

PRACTICE

2 Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

1 My father has worked for the same company*for*..... 20 years.

2 Megan has played football*since*..... she was six years old.

3 I haven't eaten anything*since*..... 7 o'clock this morning.

4 Sofia can't still be tired. She's slept*for*..... 11 hours.

5 I've made lots of new friends*since*..... I've been in this job.

The present perfect or the past simple?

- We use the present perfect to talk about a past experience without saying when it happened.

*I've **been** to the top of the Eiffel Tower.*

- To say when something happened, use the past simple.

*I **went** to the top of the Eiffel Tower last summer.*

- We use the present perfect to talk about the continuing effect of a past event or action on the present.

*There **has been** an accident on the motorway. Now there are long queues of traffic into the city centre.*

- We use the present perfect to talk about the time period up to the present.

*I've **been** to town this morning. (= it is still the morning)*

*My brother **has written** a short story. (=He may write more stories)*

- If the time period is now over, we use the past simple.

*I **went** into town this morning.* (= It is now afternoon or evening.)

*Prince **wrote** over 150 songs.* (= He died in 2016, so he can't write any more.)

PRACTICE

3 Underline and correct the mistakes in the conversation. Some lines are correct.

A: Have you heard? My oldest sister's getting married.

B: Who to?

A: A guy called Elliot.

B: Really! How long ~~did she know~~ him? HAS SHE KNOWN

A: Only six months. Apparently, ~~they've met~~ at work. THEY MET

B: Have you met Elliot ~~already~~? YET

A: No, not yet, but my sister's told me a lot about him.

B: When ~~have you seen~~ her? DID YOU SEE

A: ~~I've seen~~ her last week. She drove me to work one day. I SAW

4 Complete the conversations with the past simple or present perfect form of the verbs in brackets. Make any other changes necessary.

1 **A:** You look terrible. Are you OK?

B: I'm alright. I ..~~went~~..... (go) to bed late last night and I ^{'ve just woken up} (just wake up).

2 **A:** Where's Chloe?

B: I don't know. Her train ~~arrived~~. (arrive) half an hour ago, but I (not see her yet).
haven't seen her yet

3 **A:** Shall we go and see the new Star Wars film tonight?

B: No, I ~~..have already seen it~~. (already see)

A: Really?

B: Yes, I ~~..saw~~..... it last week. (see)

4 **A:** What's the most expensive thing that you ~~..have ever bought~~..... (ever buy)?

B: My racing bike. It ^{cost} 500 euros. (cost)

A: I ~~have never spent~~... as much money as that on anything! (never spend)

5 A: ~~have you ever done~~..... gymnastics? (you ever do)

B: Yes, but I ~~have never done~~..... karate. (never do)

6 A: Where ~~did you go~~..... on holiday last year? (go)

B: We ~~went~~..... to Florida. (go)

A: Really? I've got relatives there, but I ~~have never visited~~Them. (never visit)

SOLUCIONES

Modal verbs: can, could, might and may (ability and possibility)

1

1 can't 2 could 3 may/might/could 4 might/may/could 5 can

6 couldn't

2

1d may 2 c can 3 a may 4 e could 5 b can

Modal verbs: should, shouldn't, must, mustn't, have to, don't have to (obligation and prohibition)

1

1 mustn't/can't 2 can/must; can't 3 can 4 can't 5 mustn't/can't

2

1 didn't have to 2 could 3 had to 4 had to 5 could 6 couldn't

Adjectives with -ed and -ing endings

1

1 interesting; interested 2 relaxed; relaxing 3 annoying; annoyed

4 excited; exciting

Present perfect

1

1 just 2 already 3 already 4 yet 5 yet

2

1 for 2 since 3 since 4 for 5 since

3

A: Have you heard? My oldest sister's getting married,

B: Who to?

A: A guy called Elliot.

B: Really! How long ~~did she know~~ **has she known** him?

A: Only six months. Apparently ~~they've met~~ **they met** at work.

B: Have you met Elliot ~~already~~ yet?

A: No, not yet, but my sister's told me a lot about him.

B: When ~~have you seen~~ **did you** see her?

A: ~~I've seen~~ **I saw** her last week. She drove me to work one day.

4

1 went; have just woken up 2 arrived; haven't seen her yet

3 have already seen; saw 4 have ever bought; cost; have never spent

5 Have you ever done; have never done

6 did you go, went; have never visited