

Modal Verbs - Ελλειπτικά Ρήματα

Modal Verbs ή Modals ονομάζονται ρήματα όπως: **must, can, could, shall, should/ought to, may, might, will, would**. Ανάλογα με την χρήση τους μπορούν να εκφράσουν πιθανότητα, αναγκαιότητα, ικανότητα, συμβουλή, λογικά συμπεράσματα κ.α. Αποτελούν μια ξεχωριστή κατηγορία ρημάτων.

Τα βασικά τους χαρακτηριστικά:

1. Ακολουθούνται πάντα από **bare infinitive** (infinitive without 'to') (γυμνό απαρέμφατο)
2. Σχηματίζουν την ερώτηση και την άρνηση μόνα τους ως βοηθητικά ρήματα.

ΚΑΤΑΦΑΣΗ	ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ	ΑΡΝΗΣΗ
I can work	Can I work?	I can't work - (cannot)

3. **Είναι ελλειπτικά ρήματα:** δηλαδή δεν κλίνονται και δεν σχηματίζουν όλους τους χρόνους. Οι αναφορές στους διάφορους χρόνους γίνονται ή με την αντικατάσταση του modal από συνώνυμο ρήμα (*semi modal*) ή με την αλλαγή του απαρεμφάτου.

→ Τα **semi-modals** είναι τα **have/has to** = **πρέπει** (συνώνυμο του **must**), **be able to** = **είμαι ικανός να** (συνώνυμο του **can**). Κλίνονται κανονικά σε όλους τους χρόνους και μπορούν να συνδυαστούν με άλλα modals: The principal **may be able to** see you next week. (*Correct*)

1. Probability = Πιθανότητα *May/Might/Could* (μπορεί/θα μπορούσε/είναι πιθανό)

She **may/might/could correct** our exercises. = Μπορεί να διορθώσει τις ασκήσεις μας.
(παρόν - μέλλον - απλό απαρέμφατο)

2. Ability = Ικανότητα *Can/be able to* (μπορώ/είμαι ικανός να)

Present	I can	I am able to
Past	I could	I was able to
Future	I can	I will be able to
Present Perfect	-	I have been able to
Past Perfect	-	I had been able to
Future Perfect	-	I will have been able to

I **won't be able to** come to work tomorrow. = Δε θα μπορέσω να έρθω στη δουλειά αύριο.

I **haven't been able to** see my friends this week. = Δεν έχω μπορέσει να δω τους φίλους μου αυτή τη βδομάδα.

Όταν αναφερόμαστε στην ικανότητα στο παρελθόν προσέχουμε τα εξής:

When I was 6 years old I **was able to/could** read and write. (γενική ικανότητα στο παρελθόν)

ΑΛΛΑ: Yesterday my father **was able to** start the car. (συγκεκριμένη ικανότητα = "τα κατάφερε") → Το *could*, δηλαδή, χρησιμοποιείται μόνο για γενική ικανότητα στο παρελθόν.

****** Στην άρνηση χρησιμοποιούνται και τα δύο χωρίς διαφορά στο νόημα

I **couldn't/wasn't able to** read and write when I was 6 years old.

My father **couldn't/wasn't able to** start the car.

3. Logical Assumption = Λογικό συμπέρασμα

Must = μάλλον πρέπει, *Can't/Couldn't* = δεν είναι δυνατόν

A. MUST → Θετικό Λογικό συμπέρασμα He **must be** really rich. → Το απαρέμφατο είναι Απλό και πρόκειται για θετικό λογικό συμπέρασμα στο παρόν.

B. CAN'T/COULDN'T → Αρνητικό λογικό συμπέρασμα (δεν μπορεί / δεν είναι δυνατόν να...)

She **can't/couldn't have** all this money. → Το απαρέμφατο είναι Απλό. Αρνητικό λογικό συμπέρασμα για το παρόν.

4. Obligation/Prohibition = Υποχρέωση/Απαγόρευση

must = πρέπει, (δυνατή υποχρέωση - *strong obligation*)

have to = είναι υποχρεωτικό (ήπια υποχρέωση - *mild obligation*)

Present	I must	I have to
Past	-	I had to
Future	I must	I will have to
Present Perfect	-	I have had to
Past Perfect	-	I had had to
Future Perfect	-	I will have had to

→ You **must do** as I say. / You **have to do** as I say. = Πρέπει να κάνεις ό,τι λέω.

→ Στην άρνηση όμως το **mustn't** και το **don't have to** έχουν διαφορετικό νόημα: You **mustn't do** this. = Δεν πρέπει/απαγορεύεται να το κάνεις αυτό. You **don't have to do** this. = Δεν χρειάζεται/δεν είναι αναγκαίο να το κάνεις αυτό. (similar to: You **needn't do** this.)

Περισσότερα παραδείγματα:

You **must comply** with our rules. → Υποχρέωση

He **must study** tonight. → Κάτι πρέπει να γίνει στο μέλλον.

He **had to study** last night. That's why he didn't come. → Έπρεπε να διαβάσει χθες το βράδυ. Γι' αυτό δεν ήρθε. (Έμεινε μέσα και διάβασε).

→Οι σύντομες απαντήσεις στις ερωτήσεις με **must** έχουν ως εξής:

-**Must** I cook dinner tonight?

-**Yes**, you **must**. / **No**, you **don't have to**.

5. Advice/Criticism = Συμβουλή/Κριτική *Should/Ought to* = θα έπρεπε

You **should/ought to** go to the dentist. (θα έπρεπε/συμβουλή)

6. Necessity = Αναγκαιότητα *Need* = είναι αναγκαίο

*Ως κανονικό ρήμα ακολουθείται από **full infinitive**: I **need to wash** the dog. / Do I **need to wash** the dog? / I **don't need to wash** the dog.

*Ως **modal** ακολουθείται από **γυμνό απαρέμφατο** και χρησιμοποιείται περισσότερο στην **ερώτηση** και την **άρνηση**: **Need** I **wash** the car? / I **needn't wash** the car.

7. Πώς προτείνουμε κάτι..

Shall/should we call a taxi?

We **can/could** go to the movies.

How/what about going to the movies?

Why don't we go to the movies?

9. Πώς ζητάμε κάτι..

Will/Would you walk the dog?

Can/could you walk the dog?

Would you **mind** walking the dog?

8. Πώς προσφερόμαστε για να κάνουμε κάτι..

Shall I do the laundry?

Would you **like** me to do the laundry?

I **will** do the laundry for you.

Can/could I help you ma'am?

10. Πώς μπορούμε να ζητήσουμε και να (μην) δώσουμε άδεια..

Can I pick up the phone? (informal) Yes, you **can**. / No, you **can't**.

May/might I pick up the phone? (formal) Yes, you **may**. / No, you **may not**.

Could I pick up the phone? (formal) Yes, you **can**. / No, you **can't**.

EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks using **MUST, MUSTN'T, DON'T HAVE TO, SHOULD, SHOULDN'T, MIGHT, CAN, CAN'T, COULD, MAY**

1. Rose and Ted _____ be good players. They have won hundreds of cups!
2. You _____ pay to use the library. It's free.
3. I'm not sure where my wife is at the moment. She _____ be at her dance class.
4. Jerry _____ be working today. He never works on Sundays.
5. You _____ be 18 to see that film.
6. You _____ hear this story. It's very funny.
7. Dad _____ go and see a doctor. His cough is getting worse all the time.
8. You don't have to shout. I _____ hear you very well.
9. It _____ be him. I saw him a week ago, and he didn't look like that.
10. You look pretty tired. I think you _____ go to bed early tonight.
11. Let me look. I _____ be able to help you.
12. "Children, you _____ cross the street if the lights are red!"
13. You _____ sit so near the TV. It's bad for your eyes.
14. I'm sorry but I _____ give you a lift because my car is broken.
15. I _____ stop and talk to you now. I have to get to the library.
16. You really _____ go to the Louvre if you're in Paris. It's wonderful.
17. You _____ come to the party if you don't feel well.
18. I don't know where Kelly is. She _____ be at her sister's.
19. You have passed all your tests. You _____ be very pleased with yourself.
20. You _____ smoke in your car, especially if there are children sitting in the back.
21. You _____ work this evening. I can do the tasks for you.
22. John doesn't need a calculator. He _____ do sums in his head.
23. Passengers _____ open the door when the train is moving.
24. It _____ rain today. It's getting cloudy already.
25. I _____ pay for the tickets because I got them from Sam for free.

KEY

Fill in the blanks using **MUST**, **MUSTN'T**, **DON'T HAVE TO**, **SHOULD**, **SHOULDN'T**, **MIGHT**, **CAN**, **CAN'T**, **COULD**, **MAY**

1. Rose and Ted **MUST** be good players. They have won hundreds of cups !
2. You **DON'T HAVE TO** pay to use the library. It's free.
3. I'm not sure where my wife is at the moment. She **MIGHT** be at her dance class.
4. Jerry **CAN'T** be working today. He never works on Sundays.
5. You **MUST** be 18 to see that film.
6. You **MUST** hear this story. It's very funny.
7. Dad **SHOULD** go and see a doctor. His cough is getting worse all the time.
8. You don't have to shout. I **CAN** hear you very well.
9. It **CAN'T** be him. I saw him a week ago, and he didn't look like that.
10. You look pretty tired. I think you **SHOULD** go to bed early tonight.
11. Let me look. I **MIGHT** be able to help you.
12. "Children, you **MUSTN'T** cross the street if the lights are red !"
13. You **SHOULDN'T** sit so near the TV. It's bad for your eyes.
14. I'm sorry but I **CAN'T** give you a lift because my car is broken.
15. I **CAN'T** stop and talk to you now. I have to get to the library.
16. You really **MUST/SHOULD** go to the Louvre if you're in Paris. It's wonderful.
17. You **DON'T HAVE TO** come to the party if you don't feel well.
18. I don't know where Kelly is. She might be at her sister's .
19. You have passed all your tests. You **SHOULD** be very pleased with yourself.
20. You **SHOULDN'T/MUSTN'T** smoke in your car, especially if there are children sitting in the back.
21. You **DON'T HAVE TO** work this evening. I can do the tasks for you.
22. John doesn't need a calculator. He **CAN** do sums in his head.
23. Passengers **MUSTN'T** open the door when the train is moving.
24. It **MIGHT** rain today. It's getting cloudy already.
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