

Namaste English
Mastery Course on Modal Verbs
By Santosh Sir

Modal Verbs Day 10

Introduction to the course

- ❖ It's important that we have the knowledge of modal verbs along with the knowledge of tenses. So, this time we have brought a mastery course for you on Modal Verbs.
- ❖ In this course you will get mastery on Modal Verbs.
- ❖ You will get to know that which modal verb to be used appropriately.
- ❖ Your spoken part will improve.
- ❖ Your written part will be rhetoric, after you have attended all the sessions of this course.

Could have, should have, would have

These past modal verbs are all used hypothetically, to talk about things that didn't really happen in the past.

Could have + past participle

1: **Could have + past participle** means that something was possible in the past, or you had the ability to do something in the past, but that you didn't do it. (See also [modals of ability](#).)

- I could have stayed up late, but I decided to go to bed early.
- They could have won the race, but they didn't try hard enough.
- Julie could have bought the book, but she borrowed it from the library instead.
- He could have studied harder, but he was too lazy and that's why he failed the exam.

Couldn't have + past participle means that something wasn't possible in the past, even if you had wanted to do it.

- I couldn't have arrived any earlier. There was a terrible traffic jam (= it was impossible for me to have arrived any earlier).
- He couldn't have passed the exam, even if he had studied harder. It's a really, really difficult exam.

2: We use **could have + past participle** when we want to make a guess about something that happened in the past. In this case, we don't know if what we're saying is true or not true. We're just talking about our opinion of what maybe happened.

Why is John late?

- He could have got stuck in traffic.
- He could have forgotten that we were meeting today.
- He could have overslept.

We can also choose to use **might have + past participle** to mean the same thing:

- He might have got stuck in traffic.
- He might have forgotten that we were meeting today.
- He might have overslept.

Should have + past participle

1: **Should have + past participle** can mean something that would have been a good idea, but that you didn't do it. It's like giving advice about the past when you say it to someone else, or regretting what you did or didn't do when you're talking about yourself.

Shouldn't have + past participle means that something wasn't a good idea, but you did it anyway.

- I should have studied harder! (= I didn't study very hard and so I failed the exam. I'm sorry about this now.)
- I should have gone to bed early (= I didn't go to bed early and now I'm tired).



- I shouldn't have eaten so much cake! (= I did eat a lot of cake and now I don't feel good.)
- You should have called me when you arrived (= you didn't call me and I was worried. I wish that you had called me).
- John should have left early, then he wouldn't have missed the plane (= but he didn't leave early and so he did miss the plane).

2: We can also use **should have + past participle** to talk about something that, if everything is normal and okay, we think has already happened. But we're not certain that everything is fine, so we use 'should have' and not the present perfect or past simple. It's often used with 'by now'.

- His plane should have arrived by now (= if everything is fine, the plane has arrived).
- John should have finished work by now (= if everything is normal, John has finished work).

We can also use this to talk about something that would have happened if everything was fine, but hasn't happened.

- Lucy should have arrived by now, but she hasn't.

Would have + past participle

1: Part of the **third conditional**.

- If I had had enough money, I would have bought a car (but I didn't have enough money, so I didn't buy a car).

2: Because 'would' (and will) can also be used to show if you want to do something or not (volition), we can also use **would have + past participle** to talk about something you wanted to do but didn't. This is very similar to the third conditional, but we don't need an 'if clause'.

- I would have gone to the party, but I was really busy.
(= I wanted to go to the party, but I didn't because I was busy. If I hadn't been so busy, I would have gone to the party.)
- I would have called you, but I didn't know your number.
(= I wanted to call you but I didn't know your number, so I didn't call you.)
- A: Nobody volunteered to help us with the fair
B: I would have helped you. I didn't know you needed help.
(= If I had known that you needed help, I would have helped you.)

have to, must

Have to is NOT an auxiliary verb (it uses the verb **have** as a main verb). We include **have to** here for convenience.

Must is a modal auxiliary verb.

In this lesson we look at **have to**, **must** and **must not**, followed by a **quiz** to check your understanding.

have to for objective obligation

We often use **have to** to say that something is obligatory, for example:

- Children **have to** go to school.

Note that we can use the **have to** expression in **all tenses**, for example: *he has to*, *he had to*, *he has had to*, *he will have to*

Structure of have to

Have to is often grouped with modal auxiliary verbs for convenience, but in fact it is **not** a modal verb. It is not even an auxiliary verb. In the **have to** structure, "have" is a **main verb**.

The basic structure for **have to** is:

subject	+	auxiliary verb	+	have	+	to-infinitive
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Look at these examples in the Present Simple tense:

	subject	auxiliary verb	main verb <i>have</i>	to-infinitive	
+	She		has	to work.	
-	I	do not	have	to see	the doctor.
?	Do	you	have	to go	to school?

Use of have to

In general, **have to** expresses **impersonal** obligation. The subject of **have to** is obliged or forced to act by a separate, external power (for example, the Law or school rules). **Have to** is **objective**. Look at these examples:

- In France, you **have to** drive on the right.
- In England, most schoolchildren **have to** wear a uniform.
- John **has to** wear a tie at work.

In each of the above cases, the obligation is not the subject's opinion or idea. The obligation comes from outside.



We can use **have to** in **all tenses**, and also with modal auxiliaries. We conjugate it just like any other main verb. Here are some examples:

	subject	auxiliary verb	main verb <i>have</i>	to- infinitive	
Past Simple	I		had	to work	yesterday.
Present Simple	I		have	to work	today.
Future Simple	I	will	have	to work	tomorrow.
Present Continuous	She	is	having	to wait.	
Present Perfect	We	have	had	to change	the time.
modal <i>may</i>	They	may	have	to do	it again.

About the Instructor

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Santosh Sir has wide teaching experience of more than 5 years in English Language and Literature. He is an ex-faculty of Exam Mitra Institute, Delhi. Students have known him as a teacher who makes English Learning easy by his short methods and tricks.

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