

**Namaste English  
Mastery Course on Modal Verbs  
By Santosh Sir**

# **Modal Verbs Day 12**

## **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.

## must, have to, should and ought to

There are two types of **modal verbs of obligation** ;

- those that primarily express a **firm obligation or necessity** - **must** and **have to**
- those that express a **recommendation or moral obligation** - **should** and **ought to**

### Firm obligation, etc. - **must** and **have to**

The verb **must** only exists in the simple present and present perfect forms. While the **present** form can express obligation, necessity, certainty or strong probability, the **present perfect** forms *only* express a strongly felt opinion or supposition.

All persons	Present	Present perfect
Affirmative	Must	must have
<b>Negative</b>	<b><i>must not, mustn't</i></b>	<b><i>must not have, mustn't have</i></b>

If other tenses are required, the speaker or writer must use forms of the synonymous modal verb "**have to**". This modal auxiliary has all normal tenses, including progressive or continuous forms; these are not common, but need to be used in some cases.

Principal tenses	Present	Present perfect	Past	Future
<b>Affirmative:</b>	<b>has to, have to</b>	<b>has had to have had to</b>	had to	will have to
<b>Negative;</b>	does not have to, do not have to , doesn't have to don't have to	has not had to have not had to	did not have to didn't have to *	will not have to won't have to

Progressive or continuous	am having to is having to, are having to	has been having to have been having to	was having to were having to	will be having to
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\* The form "**had not to**" is sometimes used, but it is generally considered to be archaic.

### Got to :

In spoken English, and in the present form only, **have to** is often substantiated by the word **got**;

For example an alternative to **I have to** is **I've got to**.  
For more on this, see **Get and got**

**Examples** of **must** and **have to** being used to express :

- Firm obligation or necessity
- Certainty or strong probability.
- Must have** only : supposition

- a1) You **must** see a doctor at once !
- a2) I **have to** be at school tomorrow at 8 a.m. I have an exam !
- a21) I've **got to** be at school tomorrow at .....
- a3) You **mustn't** touch that plate, it's too hot.
- a4) I **had to** see a doctor, because I felt very sick.
- a5) I **had to** break the window ! I lost my key !
- a6) The manager isn't here, he's **had to** go to Washington on urgent business.

- b1) He **must** be over eighty, he was born in 1930.
- b2) If my brother's not in London, he **has to** be in New York.

- c1) I can't find my laptop, I **must have** left it in the train.
- c2) If they're out, they **mustn't have** heard the news.

### Attention !

Take care to distinguish correctly between "**had to**" and "**must have**"

They **had to** go to London

= They were obliged to go to London

They **must have** gone to Chicago

= In my opinion, they have certainly gone to Chicago.

## Recommendation or moral obligation - **should** and **ought to**

The verb **should** only exists in the simple present, and present perfect forms

### Forms of **should**

All persons	Present	Present perfect
Affirmative	should	should have
<b>Negative</b>	<b><i>should not, shouldn't</i></b>	<b><i>should not have, shouldn't have</i></b>

The verb **ought to** only exists in simple present and present perfect forms

### Forms of **ought to**

All persons	Present	Present perfect
Affirmative	ought to	ought to have
<b>Negative</b>	<b><i>ought not to, oughtn't to</i></b>	<b><i>ought not to have, oughtn't to have</i></b>

**Should** and **ought to** are more or less synonymous

### Examples:

- a1) You **should** stop smoking ( = You **ought to** stop smoking.)
- a2) It's raining hard, the children **ought to** come indoors.
- a3) I didn't know you were married ! You **ought to have** told me !
- a4) If you'd wanted to succeed, you **should have** worked harder at school.
- a5) This pullover's got holes in it, I **should** get a new one.
- a6) This pullover's got holes in it, I **ought to** get a new one.
- a7) That's awful ! You really **oughtn't to have** done that, you know !

## To say something is necessary

### Must

We use "must" to talk about obligations. Often, when we use "must", the authority for the obligation comes from the person who is speaking.

### Examples:

"You must do your homework every night." (Because I say you must!)

"I must stop smoking!" (Because I think it's a good idea to stop.)

Remember that "must" is a modal auxiliary verb. This means that it doesn't change its ending (**I must, he must**, etc) and that it's followed by the infinitive without 'to'. ("You **must phone** me" not "You must to phone me".)

**Have to**

We can also use “have to” to talk about rules and regulations. The authority for the obligation doesn’t come from the person who is speaking. Perhaps the rule is a general law or obligation.

“In England you have to pay tax.”

“We have to check everyone’s ID.”

“Have to” is a normal verb. Use “do” or “does” to make a question, and “don’t” or “doesn’t” to make a negative.

“Do you have to vote in an election?”

“He doesn’t have to wear a uniform to school.”

**Have got to**

“Have got to” is common in British English and is stronger than “have to”.

“I have got to fill in this form. The deadline is tomorrow.”

“She has got to study hard to pass the exam.”

To make the question and negative form, use “have”, “has”, “haven’t” and “hasn’t”:

“Have you got to leave early tomorrow?”

**Need to**

We use “need to” to talk about what is necessary.

Examples:

“You need to go to the hairdresser’s. Your hair is very long.”

“She needs to go to the doctor. She gets headaches every day.”

“Need to” is like “have to”: use do / does to make questions:

“Do you need to pass an exam to get into university?”

“Does she need to get a job?”

**To say something isn’t an obligation**

To say there is no obligation, use “don’t / doesn’t have to” or “don’t / doesn’t need to”.

Examples:

"You don't have to bring food on the trip."

"She doesn't have to work in the evening."

"I don't need to pay now. I can pay later."

"They don't need to speak English in their job."

Typical grammar mistake! Be careful when you use "don't have to". It does **not** mean the same as "mustn't" – see below.

### **To say something is forbidden**

To say that there is an obligation **not** to do something, use "mustn't".

"You mustn't play here – it's dangerous!"

"He mustn't eat peanuts. He's allergic to nuts."

We can also use "can't":

"You can't go out tonight. You've got homework."

### **Other expressions**

#### **be allowed to**

"We're allowed to take an hour for lunch."

"We aren't allowed to leave early."

"Are you allowed to use the internet at work?"

#### **should**

Should is a weak obligation, and we use it to give advice.

"You should study hard so you can pass the exam."

"He should see a doctor."

The negative form is "shouldn't":

"You shouldn't smoke. It's bad for your health."

## **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

Santosh Sen (B.Ed. in English, University of Delhi)

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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