

Les auxiliaires modaux

Les auxiliaires de mode servent à exprimer des nuances comme la capacité, la probabilité, etc.
Ils sont suivis de **l'infinitif sans to**.

1. Pouvoir

	être capable de (= capacité)	être autorisé à (= permission)	il est possible que (= possibilité)
Présent "peut"	can(n't)	can(n't) may (not)	/
	<i>My brother can't swim.</i>	<i>Can/May I open the window? – No you can't / may not.</i>	
Conditionnel présent "pourrait"	could(n't)		could (not) may (not) might (not)
	<i>If the weather was better, we could go for a walk.</i>	<i>Could I open the window?</i>	<i>I may go to the bank if I have time. My brother might come visit me. The teacher could come in at any time.</i>
Passé "pouvait"	could(n't)		may (not) have + pp might (not) have + pp
	<i>When I was young, I couldn't swim.</i>	<i>As a child, I couldn't watch TV at night.</i>	<i>Where's your sister? – She may/might have gone to the library.</i>
Conditionnel passé "aurait pu"	could(n't) have + pp		
	<i>If you had been free, you could have come with me.</i>	<i>If you had behaved better, you could have played with the others.</i>	<i>Are you crazy? You could have been hurt!</i>
Tous les autres temps NO MODALS!	[be able to]	[be allowed to]	/
	<i>If I save enough money, I'll be able to buy a house. I want to be able to do it by myself. Being able to use a computer is important.</i>	<i>If I don't take the written exam, I won't be allowed to take the oral exam. Being allowed to vote at 16 is a much-needed change.</i>	

2. Devoir

être obligé de (= obligation / nécessité) "doit" *	être invité à (= conseil / reproche)		il est probable que (= probabilité)	
	"devrait"	"aurait du"	"doit"	"a dû"
must have to need to	should (not)	should (not) have + pp	must (can't)	must have + pp (can't have + pp)
<i>You must not be late. I have to pay taxes. You needn't hurry.</i>	<i>You should follow your agent's advice.</i>	<i>You shouldn't have done that.</i>	<i>He hasn't slept all night; he must be tired, and can't be in a good mood.</i>	<i>She didn't answer. She must have been sleeping. I reminded him twice. He can't have forgotten.</i>

* Remarques sur "doit" :

1. Leur sens diffère, y compris à la forme négative.

must = obligation imposée par la personne qui parle
have to = obligation venant d'extérieur

mustn't = interdiction
do(es)n't have/need to, needn't = pas nécessaire

2. *Must* ne s'emploie que pour le présent. Pour tous les autres temps, utiliser "*have to*" ou "*need to*".

*Ex: Last year I had to take the train every day.
If you invest now, you won't need to
worry when you're old. I'm too young
to have to choose between my mom
and my dad.
The best part about living with your parents is not having to pay rent.*

3. Exercices

Say in other words, using a modal verb or alternative.

It's forbidden to walk
on the grass. → You...

We will perhaps invite
them. → We...

It isn't necessary to water
the flowers. → You...

You will be obliged to tell
her. → You...

I advise you to take your umbrella. → You...

It is vital to wear a helmet when you ride a
motorbike. → You...

It is very impolite to speak to him like that.
→ You...

I think it was a bad idea to
drive so quickly. → You...

I finally managed to reach him.

→ I...

I'm sure the books are in the
cupboard → The books ...

It is possible for us to have lunch in
half an hour → We...

It isn't necessary for you to work
on Sundays → You...

I advise you to open a
bank account → You...

Perhaps Alice is at the
hairdressers → Alice...

I'm sure Sylvia didn't mean what she said → Sylvia...