

# *Unit 4*

*The Modal Verbs.*

*The Prepositions of  
movement (direction)*

# Modal Verbs

## can/can't

### 1 Form

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They</i>	<i>can run.</i>	<i>cannot (can't) run.</i>

QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS
<i>Can I/he/she/it/we/you/they run?</i>	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they can. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they can't.</i>

Modal verbs are different from main verbs.



We use the **infinitive** without *to* after them:

*X We can to come to your party. ✓ We can come to your party.*



We don't add *-s* after *he/she/it*:

*X Marek cans swim. ✓ Marek can swim.*



We do not use *do/don't* to form questions and negatives:

*X Do you can drive? ✓ Can you drive?*

*X I don't can speak Spanish. ✓ I can't speak Spanish.*

## 2 Use

We use *can/can't*

- to talk about ability in the present:

*Usain Bolt can run really fast.*

*I can speak Spanish perfectly.*

*Young children can't understand difficult ideas.*

- to say if something is possible or allowed in the present:

*We can watch the race on my mobile phone.* (= It is possible for us to watch the race.)

*Can I use this mobile phone in the USA?* (= Is it possible for me to use it?)

*Students can use dictionaries in the exam.* (= It is allowed.)

*You can't drive in the UK until you are seventeen.* (= You are not allowed to drive.)

- for making an arrangement:

*The doctor can see you tomorrow at 10.30.*

*Can you meet me here at nine o'clock on Sunday?*

# **could,** **will be able to**

## **1** Past form and use

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>POSITIVE</b>	<b>NEGATIVE</b>
<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They</i>	<i>could run.</i>	<i>could not (couldn't) run.</i>

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>SHORT ANSWERS</b>
<i>Could I/he/she/it/we/you/they run?</i>	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they could. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they couldn't.</i>

We usually use *could/couldn't*

- to talk about ability in the past:  
*Mozart could write beautiful music when he was a child.*  
*Could my great-grandmother run really fast?*
- to say if something was possible in the past:  
*Children could play in the streets years ago.*  
*Women couldn't enter competitions like the Olympics then.*

## 2 Future form and use

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They</i>	<i>will be able to run.</i>	<i>will not (won't) be able to run.</i>

QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS
<i>Will I/he/she/it/we/you/they be able to run?</i>	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they will. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they won't.</i>

We use *will/won't be able to*

- to talk about ability in the future:

*Karen will be able to speak Russian after two years in Moscow.*

*I've broken my leg – I won't be able to drive for weeks.*

- to say if something will be possible in the future:

*We'll be able to swim every day at the hotel.*

*Will you be able to get a good job after your technology course?*

# can, could, may

## 1 Asking for permission

	ASKING FOR PERMISSION	GIVING PERMISSION	REFUSING PERMISSION
informal	<i>Can I use your pen?</i>	<i>Yes, you can.</i> <i>Yes, of course (you can).</i> <i>Yes, sure.</i>	<i>No, you can't.</i> <i>No, I'm sorry.</i>
formal/ polite	<i>Could I use your bathroom?</i> <i>May I make a suggestion?</i>	<i>Yes, you can/may.</i> <i>Yes, of course/certainly.</i>	<i>No, you can't/may not.</i> <i>No, I'm sorry/I'm afraid not.</i>

We use *can I/we* to ask for permission to do something:

*'Can I have a shower here?' 'No, I'm sorry, you can't! It's for women.'*

*'Dad, can we borrow the car this evening?' 'Yes, you can. I don't need it.'*

If we want to be very polite or formal, we use *could* or *may*:

*'Could I use your bathroom, please?' 'Of course you can. It's over there.'*

*'May I make a suggestion?' 'Certainly.'*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We only use *may* or *may not* in written instructions or very formal situations:

*Students may not take bags into the exam.*

*You may start writing now.*



## 2 Making a request

	MAKING A REQUEST	REPLYING
informal	<i>Can you lend me some money?</i>	<i>Sure, how much do you need?</i> <i>No, I'm sorry. I don't have enough.</i>
formal/ polite	<i>Could you pass me the salt?</i>	<i>Yes, of course.</i> <i>Certainly.</i>

We use *can you* to make a request in an informal way:

*'Can you help me with these bags?' 'Yes, of course.'*

*'Can you tell Tom I called?' 'Yes, sure.'*

If we want to be more polite or formal, we use *could*:

*'Could you pass me the water, please?' 'Yes, here you are.'*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We use *please* with *can* or *could* to ask for something or make a request in a polite way:

*'Please could you be quiet?'*

or *'Could you be quiet, please?'*

# *have to,* *need to*

## 1 Form

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>I/We/You/They</i>	<i>have to/need to pay.</i>	<i>do not (don't) have to/need to pay.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>has to/needs to pay.</i>	<i>does not (doesn't) have to/need to pay.</i>

QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS	
<i>Do I/we/you/they have to/need to pay?</i>	<i>Yes, I/we/you/they do.</i>	<i>No, I/we/you/they don't.</i>
<i>Does he/she/it have to/need to pay?</i>	<i>Yes, he/she/it does.</i>	<i>No, he/she/it doesn't.</i>

*Have to* and *need to* are different from most modal verbs. They change after *he/she/it* and use *do/does* in questions and negatives, like all main verbs.

## 2 *have to or need to?*

We use *have to*

- when it is important to do something because there is a rule or a law:  
*You **have to put** a card down.* (It's a rule of the game.)  
*Cars **have to pay** to cross the bridge. **Do you have to be** a member to use the gym?*
- when it is necessary to do something; we cannot choose not to do it:  
*I **have to get up** early tomorrow – the train leaves at 6.45 a.m.*

We use *need to*

- when we think something is necessary or a good idea:  
*I **need to earn** some more money. She **needs to talk** to her doctor.*
- when something is necessary for our body or health:  
*I **need to go** to bed early tonight – I'm very tired. You **need to drink** more water.*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** In everyday English we often use the short form *have got to* ('ve/'s got to).

It means the same as *have to*:

*I've got to get up early tomorrow to catch the train.*

### 3 *don't have to* or *don't need to*?

We use *don't have to* and *don't need to* when it is NOT necessary to do something:  
*Cyclists don't have to/need to pay to cross the bridge – there's no charge for bicycles.*  
*We don't have to/need to get up early tomorrow – it's Sunday.*



It is possible to use *needn't* for *don't need to*. We use it with the infinitive without *to*:  
~~*X You needn't to pay. I've got enough money.*~~ ✓ *You needn't pay. I've got enough money.*

# *must/mustn't*

## 1 *must*

*Must* is a modal verb.

We use *must* when we think it is important to do something. It is our opinion, not a rule or law:  
*I must get it right.*

(= I think it is important that I get it right.)

*I must go now – I don't want to be late.*  
(= I think it is important to be on time.)

We also use *must* in formal instructions, signs and notices. It means 'Do this!':  
*Passengers must wear seat belts.*

(instruction on a plane)

*Candidates must answer six questions.*  
(instructions on an exam paper)

**NATURAL ENGLISH** It is possible to ask questions with *must*, but it is more common to use *have to*:

*Must you leave so soon?* → *Do you have to leave so soon?*

## 2 *must not (mustn't)*

We use *mustn't* when we think it is important NOT to do something:

*You mustn't tell anyone.* (= I think it is important to keep this secret.)

*Hurry up! We mustn't be late for Diana's party.* (= I think it is important that we aren't late.)

We use *must not* in instructions, signs and notices. It means 'Don't do this!':

*Visitors must not smoke in reception.*

*Students must not take food into the exam room.*



Don't use *to* after *must* or *mustn't*:

~~*X I must to remember to phone the doctor.*~~

*✓ I must remember to phone the doctor.*

## 3 *mustn't or don't have to?*

- *Mustn't* means it is important not to do something; it means 'Don't do this!':  
*We mustn't leave the restaurant without paying – it's illegal.*
- *Don't have to* means something is not necessary (but you can do it if you want to):  
*We don't have to pay for the meal now. We can pay when we leave the hotel.*

# *had to, will have to*

## 1 *had to*

*Had to/didn't have to* is the past form of both *must* and *have to*.

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>I/He/She/It/ We/You/They</i>	<i>had to stop.</i>	<i>did not (didn't) have to stop.</i>

### QUESTIONS

*Did I/he/she/it/we/  
you/they have to stop?*

### SHORT ANSWERS

*Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they did.  
No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they didn't.*

We use *had to* when we talk about things that were necessary in the past:

*In 2010 she had to go to the USA to take part in competitions.*

*They had to get visas when they went to South America last year.*

We use *didn't have to* for something that wasn't necessary in the past:

*My uncle made a lot of money and he didn't have to work after he was fifty.*

*We didn't have to show our passports at the border between France and Germany.*



## 2 *will have to*

*Will/won't have to* is the future form of both *must* and *have to*.

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>I/He/She/It/We/You/They</i>	<i>will have to stop.</i>	<i>will not (won't) have to stop.</i>

QUESTIONS	SHORT ANSWERS
<i>Will I/he/she/it/we/you/they have to stop?</i>	<i>Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they will. No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they won't.</i>

We use *will/won't have to* when we talk about things that are necessary/not necessary in the future:

*We'll have to pay more for petrol in the future because the price of oil is increasing.*

*Carol won two cinema tickets in a competition so we won't have to pay at the cinema tonight.*

## 1 *should, ought to*

*Should* and *ought to* are modal verbs.

We use *should* and *ought to* to say we think it is a good idea to do something:

*The sun is very strong – you should wear a hat.*

*You ought to find out how much it costs.*

We can ask for advice with *should*:

*Should I buy the red dress or the blue one?*

We use *shouldn't* to say we think it is a bad or dangerous idea to do something:

*You shouldn't eat a lot of cakes; they make you fat.*

*You shouldn't sit outside in the sun at midday.*



Don't use *to* after *should* or *shouldn't*:

✗ ~~Everyone should to learn another language.~~

✓ Everyone **should learn** another language.

When we are speaking, we often say *I (don't) think + should/ought to* and *do you think + should/ought to*:

*We think you should study maths at university.*

*It's too dangerous. I don't think you should do it.*

*Do you think we ought to get a digital TV?*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** *Should* is more common than *ought to*. We usually say *you shouldn't* and *should I ... ?* (not *you oughtn't to* or *ought I ... ?*).

## 2 *must*

We can use (*really*) *must* to give strong advice or to recommend something.

It is stronger than *should* or *ought to*:

*You really must try snowboarding. It's great fun!*

*We must see the new Harry Potter film. Everyone says it's great.*

## **1** *might (not) and may (not)*

We use *might (not)* when we think something is true or will be true but we aren't sure:

'Who's second?' 'It ***might be*** the one with the pink cap.'

Jenny ***might be*** at home now. Call her.

The parcel ***might not arrive*** tomorrow.

In more formal English we can use *may (not)* when we aren't sure about something:

Mr Clement ***may be*** with a client. I'll just check for you.

The order ***may not arrive*** next week.

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We don't often form questions with *may* or *might*.

We prefer to use *Do you think ... ?*:

***Do you think they've got any cheap trainers?***

***Do you think the order will arrive this week?***

## 2 *must be* and *can't be*

If we are almost certain that something is true, we use *must be*:

*You're very late home. You **must be** tired.*

*I can't find the cat. She **must be** somewhere upstairs.*

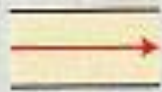
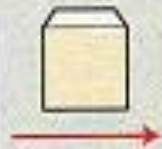
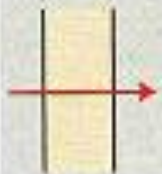

If we are almost certain that something is not true, we use *can't be*:


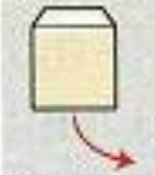
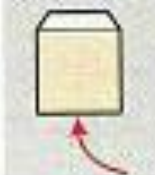
*This ring was very cheap so it **can't be** gold.*

*That boy looks exactly like Sam but it **can't be** him – he's at school.*

# Prepositions of movement (direction)

1 along, past, across, over, through, round, from, to


along		Walk along the path.
past		Go past the toilets.
across over		Go across the bridge. Go over the bridge.
through		Go through the main gate.

round		Go round the fountain.
from		You go from the ticket office ...
to		Follow the path to the food court.

We also use *from* in this way:

*Our English teacher comes/is from New Zealand.* (= New Zealand is her country.)

## 2 into, out of, onto, off

<i>into</i>		Let's go <i>into</i> the house.
<i>out of</i>		Can you get my shoes <i>out of</i> the wardrobe?
<i>onto</i>		The cat jumped <i>onto</i> the table.
<i>off</i>		The cat jumped <i>off</i> the table.

*Into* is similar to *in*, but we use *into* for movement.

We get *into/out of* a car or taxi, but get *on/off* a bus, plane, train, ship, bike  
Get *into* the car. We're ready to go. I felt ill when I got *off* the ship.



~~*I got into the bus.*~~ ✓ *I got on the bus.*



