

Modal and semi modal verbs – Module-1

BE + ABLE TO

Specific ability / Capability (It has past, present, future forms)

After the operation John was able to walk again. (Single past occasion)

I'm able to play tennis twice a week. (Circumstances permit me to do this)

I will be able to visit Paris next year. (Nothing should prevent me from doing this)

Present

I	am	Able to	Speak English now.
We/you/they/who (P)	are		Drive a car now.
He/she/it/who (s)	is		Repair laptops now.

Past

I	was	Able to	Come home last night.
We/you/they/who (P)	were		get train ticket at the last moment.
He/she/it/who (s)	was		pass CA exam after two attempts.

Future

I/we/you/they/he/she/it Who (S) and Who (P)	Will be	Able to	Speak English in about three months
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CAN

General Ability / Capability (present) - I can swim. (Can doesn't have present past past or future form)

Giving Permission - You can go to the cinema. (Taking permission - can I go to the music programme?)

Possibility - Smoking can affect your health

Offer - Can I help you, madam?

Negative deduction (present) - You can't be hungry, you have just eaten two pizzas.

NOTE: Don't use **can** and **able to** together in a same sentence.

5X5 Rule – Making five types of spoken Sentences.

1. He can drive a car.
2. Can he drive a car?
3. He can't drive a car
4. Can't he drive a car?
5. What vehicle can he drive?

MANAGE TO

Ability / Capable of doing something with a degree of difficulty (past, present, future)

I managed to get two tickets for the concert. (A degree of difficulty was involved)

I manage to play tennis twice a week.

I hope you will manage to come to office on Sunday (Even though you may face difficulties)

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COULD

Ability / Capability (in the past) I could swim when I was seven.

Permission - You could go to cinema once a week.

Possibility - This old clock could be very valuable.

Request - Could I use your phone, please?

Offer - Could I be of any help?

Suggestion - You could join B.Com. in any Government College

Negative deduction - (past) It couldn't have been John because he is out of the town.

Making spoken sentences 5x5 rule

1. He could attend Spoken English class last week (In spite of heavy rains)
2. Could he attend spoken English classes last week?
3. He couldn't attend spoken class last week
4. Couldn't he attend spoken English class last week?
5. How could he attend classes last week? When there was heavy rain.

MAY

Permission - You may leave the room at .

Possibility - He may be an army man./ It may rain soon.

Request - May I use your phone, please? (formal request)

Offer - May I help you, sir?

Speculation - John may have **gone** to Spain. (use **past participle** verb)

MIGHT

Possibility - John might come to your party.

Speculation - Someone might have already told his wife. (Use past participle verb)

Suggestion - You might not want to drink this (because it's very bitter.)

Conditional -1 If you invite him he might come.

2 If you had invited him he might have come to your party.

MUST

Deduction - He couldn't pass CA exam, he must be disappointed.

Necessity - It's raining you must take an umbrella.

Obligation - John must work harder if he wants to pass the CA exam.

(subjective obligation) - All expenses must be approved by the manager.

Prohibition - You mustn't use this computer.

(Emphatic) Emphatic advice - You must see this film, it's a great one

Spoken Sentences 5x5 Rule

1. She must learn Spoken English
2. Must she learn Spoken English?
3. She mustn't learn Spoken English.
4. Mustn't she learn Spoken English?
5. What language must she learn?

HAVE TO (Please refer 'have to' possessive case usage for more detail)

Obligation: You have to stop when the traffic light turns red. (imposed obligation-present & Future)

They have to attend class on Sundays

I/we/you/they/Who (P)	Have to	Attend English class every Sunday
He/she/it/who (S)	Has to	Complete the last week's homework

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NEED

Necessity - Do you think I need to take an umbrella?

Negative - You needn't go to the college today, today is Sunday.

Need as a main verb

I need water/She needs rest/They need your help

Negative

I don't need water/she doesn't need money

Question form

Do you need some water?

Does she need any help?

Do they need any help?

Need as a MODAL

We generally don't use NEED as a MODAL in positive sentences

You need not worry about the exams

Students need not bring books to the class

Question form

Need I come early?

Need we submit this today?

Need he wait here?

OUGHT TO

Deduction - He has studied very hard he ought to pass the exam.

Assumption - He ought to have received the parcel by now.

Advice - You ought to go to the doctor's.

You ought not to smoke so much.

Recommendation - You ought to tell him the truth.

Probability - The concert ought to only take about two hours.

There are ought to be some good programmes at the college this week

HAD BETTER

Advice - You had better take rest (because you are working for a long time)

I had better stay at home than to go out in the dark.

Recommendation - You had better tell me the truth.

SHOULD

Assumption / deduction - The plane should be landing now.

Advice - You should go to the doctor's.

Recommendation - You should take one of these pills every day.

Necessity - You should be wearing a coat, it's very cold here

Obligation I should go to college on holidays.

Prediction - This should be a very good film.

Prohibition - You should never repeat what you've just said.

Spoken Sentences 5x5 Rule

1. They should come to office at 10 a.m every day
2. Should they come to office at 10 a.m. every day?
3. They shouldn't come late to the office
4. Shouldn't they come late to the office?
5. When should they come to office everyday?

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SHALL

Speculation - Where shall/will + we be this time next year?

Suggestion - Shall we invite John or not?

Decision - Shall we invite John or not?

Expectation - We shall overcome the difficulties.

Question - What shall we do?

Offer - Shall we wake you up at 5.00 a.m.?

Permission – Shall I come tomorrow.

WILL

Assumption - He will have plenty of time to get to the airport.

Deduction - He left home an hour ago. He'll arrive any minute now.

Future - He will be 27 next month.

Offer - I'll do the work for you don't worry

Promise - I will help you.

Intention - I will wait for you.

Obligation / decision: I will buy you a new car.

Prediction - It will rain in Chennai tomorrow.

Conditional - If it rains tomorrow I will/won't go to the cinema.

Spoken Sentences 5x5 Rule (same rule for will also)

1. He will come to office tomorrow
2. Will he come to office tomorrow?
3. He won't come to office tomorrow
4. Won't he come to office tomorrow
5. When will he come to office?

WOULD

Possibility _ Would John come with us?

Request - Would you please answer the question?

Speculation - Thanks a lot for helping me, what would I have done without you?

Polite question - Would you, please, close the door?

Offer - Would you like a cup of tea? Would you like have a cup of tea?

Past tense - 'will' (indirect speech) John said he would take me to the cinema