MODAL VERBS

They can have more than one meaning depending on the situations

	PROBABILITY/ POSSIBILITY	ABILITY	PERMISSION	OBLIGATION/ ADVICE	OFFERS
CAN		I can play the piano	Can I go out tonight?		
CAN'T	She can't be his mum. She 's too young	I can't speak German	Can I borrow the car? No, I can't.		
MIGHT	It might rain tomorrow				
COULD	It could rain tomorrow	I could already read when I was two	Could I see your passport please, sir?		
MAY	It may rain tomoroww		May I leave the table?		
MUST	She must be his sister because they look alike.			You must leave before the clock strikes twelve.	
HAVE TO				I have to study tonight.	
SHALL				You shall pay on Tuesday	Shall I help you?
SHOULD / OUGHT TO				You should see it. It's excellent.	
HAD BETTER				You had better sleep more.	
WOULD					Would you like a drink?

Modal	Function	Form in the Present	Form in the Past
Can	To show ability	I can run 10 miles.	I could run 10 miles when I was young.
	To suggest a possibility or give an option	Students can pre-enroll in classes.	
	To ask for or to give permission	Can you call me? You can leave now.	
	To show impossibility	It cannot be Jim standing there. He went away for the weekend.	
Could	To show past ability		I could run 10 miles when I was young.
	To ask a polite question	Could I call you?	
	To show possibility	Why isn't Mary here? She could be busy.	Why wasn't Mary at the party last night? She could have been busy.
	To show impossibility	He could not be here at the party. He is out of town.	He could not have been at the party last night. He was out of town.
	To suggest a possibility/opportunity or give an option	You could try going this way.	You could have tried going that way.

Modal	Function	Form in the Present	Form in the Past
Must	To show probability or to make a logical assumption	Janice must be out this evening. She does not answer the telephone.	Janice must have been out last evening. She did not answer her telephone.
	To show necessity	I must call my parent tonight.	I was late for the meeting because I had to call my parents last night.
	To show prohibition	You must not cross the street on red light.	
Have to	To show necessity	Mike has to make up the class he missed.	Mike had to make up the class he had missed.
	To show lack of necessity	I am glad that I do not have to cook tonight.	I did not have to cook last night.

Must vs. Have to / Has to

Must: personal circumstances
Have to / Has to: external circumstances

!! In the PAST we only use HAD or DIDN'T HAVE TO