



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
LEARN  
English

# **Modal Verbs**

**Obligation and Prohibition**  
**Deduction and Possibility**

# Modal Verbs of OBLIGATION and PROHIBITION: MUST / HAVE TO

	MUST	HAVE TO
Affirmative	<p>Subj + MUST + base form</p> <p><i>I must go to bed earlier.</i></p> <p><b>OBLIGATION</b> (some <u>personal circumstance</u> makes the obligation necessary)</p>	<p>Subj. + HAVE TO / HAS TO + base form</p> <p><i>You have to do your homework. She has to take care of her sister.</i></p> <p><b>OBLIGATION</b> (some <u>external circumstance</u> makes the obligation necessary)</p>
Negative	<p>Subj. + MUSTN'T + base form</p> <p><i>They mustn't use the lift.</i></p> <p><b>PROHIBITION</b></p>	<p>Subj. + DON'T HAVE TO / DOESN'T HAVE TO + base form</p> <p><i>He doesn't have to pay the breakfast.</i></p> <p><b>LACK OF OBLIGATION</b></p>

# Modal Verbs of DEDUCTION and POSSIBILITY: MUST / MIGHT / MAY / CAN'T

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# Modal Verbs of DEDUCTION and POSSIBILITY: MUST / MIGHT / MAY / CAN'T

## MUST

We use must to express that we are **SURE** that something is true.

*The team is playing really well today; they must win.*

*They must be very rich – look at their big house!*

## MAY / MIGHT

We use may or might to say that it is **POSSIBLE** that something will happen in the future or is happening now but we **AREN'T CERTAIN**.

*They may be arriving tomorrow.*

*He might be away on holiday at the moment.*

## CAN'T

We use can't to say we are sure that something is **IMPOSSIBLE**.

*She can't be so ill – I saw her playing volleyball yesterday.*

*I don't believe you – it can't be true.*

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Life is like riding  
a bicycle.

To keep your balance,  
you must keep moving.

-Albert Einstein

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