English Tutor Services

MODAL VERBS

SHOULD

Advice/ recommendation

You should not eat so much chocolate!

He should have told her.

You should have been there.

CAN / COULD

Can - present
Could - past

Ability

I can swim.

I could play the piano when I was young - not anymore!

MUST

Obligation Responsibility / Assumption

She must study!

You must pay taxes.

She's not here, She must be sick.

MAY / MIGHT

May - present
Might - past

Permission/ Probability

May I come in?

I might have lost my money on the train.

WILL / WOULD

Will - present
Would - past

Present/ unreal

I will win the race.

I will buy milk.

if I had money. I would ...

SHALL

Offer / obligation

Shall I clean the window for you?

She shall pay for the damages.

OUGHT TO

Personal believe

..like ''are to''...

You ought to drink ginger tea when you feel sick.

You ought to have warned me earlier!

NEEDN'T

..like ''don't need to''...

You needn't fetch us early, we're only leaving at 10am.

You needn't cook tonight - I will.

You needn't spend so much!

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MODAL VERBS

..with HAVE

I could have asked her to help.

You should have paid attention!

I might have helped you, if you asked.

That would have hurt her feelings.

..with BEEN



I could have been the next King if ...

You should have been more careful!

I might have been too strict with her.

That must have been awful.

..with BE now

That can be dangerous!

I may be able to help.

I may be strict, but they are naughty!

You must be hungry after the trip.

DOUBLE CONCEPT / TWO MEANINGS - Examples:

shall POLITE/EXPRESSION - Shall I clean your room?

shall COMMAND/PROMISE/THREAT - The company shall pay all your benefits. You shall not go to that party! You shall phone her, now!

could UNREAL - I could have gone to the store if I had time. (Past)

could PAST ABILITY - She could play the violin when she was younger.

can PRESENT ABILITY - We can speak English.

can PERMISSION - Can I go to Europe without a passport?