

MODAL VERBS

Obligation, permission, ability, prohibition, advice, lack of obligation

can, be able to, can't // could, was/were able to, managed to

I can speak French.	I could speak French when I was 7.
I can't play chess.	I couldn't play chess 2 years ago.
I'm able to pass this exam	I was able to finish it / I managed to ...
I'm not able to say it.	I wasn't able to say a word.

must, have to, need to // had to, needed to

I must/have to/need to talk to her.	I had to/needed to talk to her.
I must learn hard, I want to pass this exam.	
I have to pay my bills by the 15 th .	

don't/doesn't have to, ~ need to, needn't // didn't have to, ~need to, need't have done

You don't need to/don't have to wear a tie and a shirt, it's not a formal meeting.
You didn't have to/didn't need to hurry, we have plenty of time.
You needn't have gone to the station, it was waste of time.

: may, can, be allowed to // could, was/were allowed to

You can park your car here.	You could park your car here.
You are allowed to have a lunch break.	I could/was allowed to use my company telephone for personal calls.
May I switch the TV on?	
I wonder if I might use your pen for a second.	

can't, mustn't // couldn't, wasn't/weren't allowed to

You can't/mustn't smoke in here!
You are not allowed to come into this office.
I wasn't allowed to smoke in my previous job.
I couldn't go to karate classes when I was little, my parents said it wasn't for girls.

should, ought to // should have, ought to have have to, must had better, would rather

You should/ought to stop smoking.	You should have stopped smoking long time ago.
You must/have to see your doctor, it's really serious.	
You'd better see your doctor.	
I'd rather you saw your doctor.	

Deduction: