

MODAL VERBS

FORM AND USE

- Modals do not take the final **-s**, even when the subject is *she, he, it* (**She can do it.**). The only exception is **have to: She has to do it.**
- Modals have the same form in all persons.
- Modals are followed immediately by the simple form of a verb. (*She can do it.*)
- There is no *do* or *does* in questions or negative phrases. (*She can do it. – Can she do it? – She cannot do it.*) The only exception is **have to: She doesn't have to do it. – Does she have to do it?**

MODAL VERBS	CZECH EQUIVALENT	USE
can/can't		ability (schopnost): Many animals can see clearly in the dark. Human beings can't do this. permission (povolení): You can look at the animals in the zoo but you can't touch them.
could/couldn't		past ability (schopnost v minulosti): We don't know how fast Ancient Greek athletes could run . to describe what was allowed/not allowed (něco bylo/nebylo povoleno): Women couldn't compete or watch the ancient Olympic Games.
must		necessity/obligation (nutnost, povinnost): You must clean your desk. (= personal opinion of the speaker)
need not		lack of necessity (není to nutné): He needn't come .
mustn't		= you can't do it, it's prohibited/negative obligation (zákaz): You mustn't throw things in the science lab! It's dangerous!
have to/has to		necessity/obligation (nutnost/povinnost): We have to wear safety goggles. (= an 'outside' opinion or rule)
don't have to/ doesn't have to		= it's not necessary (není to nutné): You don't have to use a pen. (it's not necessary- use a pen or a pencil)
should		something is/isn't a good idea (to give advice, to make suggestion) (rada, doporučení): I think you should study biology next year.
shouldn't		You should pay more attention. You shouldn't talk so much.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct completion. Pay attention to the form.

- 1 Mary can _____ to the meeting.
a) comes b) to come c) come
- 2 Jack should _____ harder.
a) studies b) study c) to study
- 3 The whole team must _____ together in order to win the game.
a) work b) worked c) works
- 4 You have _____ an umbrella when you go out. It looks like it's going to rain.
a) take b) taken c) to take
- 5 We have a lot of food in the fridge so you needn't _____ shopping.
a) to go b) going c) go

2 Complete each sentence with **CAN**, **CAN'T**, **COULD** or **COULDN'T** + the verb in brackets.

- 1 What's that noise? I _____ hear something.
- 2 I learned to play the piano when I was ten but I _____ only play one song.
- 3 Don't push Harry in the water. He _____ swim.
- 4 The class worked hard so they _____ leave early.
- 5 Sorry, I _____ come tomorrow. I'll try and see you next week.
- 6 The suitcase was so heavy so I _____ lift it.

3 Complete the sentence with **MUST**, **MUSTN'T**, or **DON'T / DOESN'T HAVE TO**.

- 1 You _____ stand on the desk. You'll break it.
- 2 Liz _____ take an umbrella. I'm sure it isn't going to rain.
- 3 You _____ be more careful next time!
- 4 In our country children _____ go to school on Saturday.
- 5 You _____ touch the ball. It's against the rules.
- 6 Sorry, I really _____ go now!

4 Complete the sentences. Use **HAVE TO**, **HAS TO**, or **HAD TO** in each.

- 1 I'm sorry I was absent from class yesterday, but I _____.
- 2 If you want to enter the university, you _____.
- 3 Erica can't come to Pete's party tomorrow because she _____.
- 4 Jake couldn't go to the cinema yesterday because he _____.

5 Put a form of **HAVE TO** or **SHOULD** into each gap. Sometimes the verb forms are negative.

- 1 Your hair is too long. I think you _____ get it cut.
- 2 You smell, and you've got a cough. You _____ smoke.
- 3 I'm going to bed. I _____ be up early tomorrow.
- 4 I'd like to meet your boyfriend. You _____ invite him round.
- 5 You _____ come with me if you don't want to. I'll go on my own.
- 6 You _____ tell lies. It's naughty.
- 7 Paul works too much. I think he _____ take it easy.