

MODAL VERBS I

Form and use:

- Modals do not take a 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 (= infinitive). (**She can do it.**)
- There is **NO do or does** in questions or negative phrases. When we want to make a question we just change the word order. (**She can do it. – Can she do it? – She cannot do it.**) The only exception is **have to: Does she have to do it? – She doesn't have to do it.**

Modal verbs	Czech eqv.	Use
can / can't		ability (=>schopnost): Sue can dance quite well but she can't sing. permission (=>povolení): You can't come in here. Can we go home now?
must		necessity/obligation (=> nutnost/povinnost): You must clean your room.
need not		lack of necessity (=> není to nutné) He needn't come in person, he can send an email.
have to		necessity/obligation (=> nutnost, povinnost): You can't turn right. You have to turn left.
don't have to		it's not necessary (=> není to nutné): We don't have to arrive on time.
mustn't		you can't do st. because it's prohibited (=> zákaz): You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone.
should /shouldn't		something is/isn't a good idea to do (to give advice, to make a suggestion) (=> rada, návrh): You look tired. You should go to bed.
would / wouldn't		a hypothetical action or event in the present (=>hypotetická možnost v přítomnosti): I would go there if I had time. (But I don't have it.)
may / may not		it's (not) possible (=>možnost): see Modals II – Degrees of certainty It may/might be true.
might / might not (carries less probability than "may")		I'm not sure whether I can lend you any money. I may not have enough. formal permission (=>"smím"): May we leave the room? – Yes, you may.

PRACTICE

1 Complete the sentences. Use must, mustn't, don't/doesn't have to.

- 1 We haven't got much time. We _____ hurry.
- 2 We have enough food at home so we _____ go shopping today.
- 3 Jim gave me a letter to post yesterday. I _____ remember to post it today.
- 4 Jim gave me a letter to post yesterday. I _____ forget to post it today.
- 5 There is plenty of time for you to make up your mind. You _____ decide now.
- 6 Jane _____ wash those tomatoes. They've already been washed.
- 7 This is a valuable book. You _____ look after it carefully and you _____ lose it.
- 8 "What sort of house do you want to buy?" "Well, it _____ be big, that's not important. But it _____ have a nice garden, because I love flowers."

