

GRAMMARTopic - MODALS

MODALS:- Modals are used before ordinary verbs and express meanings such as permission, intention, possibility, certainty and necessity. Modals have no -s/es in the third person singular. They have no infinitive and -ing forms.

HAS TO / HAVE TO

'Has to' and 'Have to' are used to express some compulsion, obligation or necessity in the present or future tense.

Examples:-
 (i) Mohan has to finish his work in time.
 (ii) I cannot come with you because I have to finish my work in time.

HAD TO

'Had to' is used to express compulsion, necessity or obligation in the past. The expression, 'had to' is the past tense of 'have to'.

Examples:-
 (i) Yesterday my servant did not come. I had to wash my clothes myself.
 (ii) The enemy had to accept defeat at last.

MUST

'Must' is used to express

(i) Compulsion: (a) You must see the doctor. You are having a running nose.

(b) He is weak in English. He must work hard.

(ii) duty:- (a) One must serve one's country.

(b) We must obey our parents.

(iii) obligation: (a) You must respect your elders.

(b) You must help your friends.

(IV) necessity:

- (a) If you want to catch the train, you must run fast.
- (b) You must work hard to pass the examination.

(V) Some possibility or expectation:

- (a) The result must be out shortly.
- (b) He must have reached home by now.

MUSTN'T

'Mustn't' is used to convey the sense of obligation, compulsion, etc. as in the case of must but in the negative sense.

- (i) You mustn't waste your time.
- (ii) Your eyesight is weak, you mustn't read in the dim light.

SHOULD/SHOULDN'T

'Should' is used to express

(i) duty or moral obligation:

- (a) We should help our friends.
- (b) You shouldn't deface the walls.

(ii) Caution or purpose:

- (a) Walk carefully lest you should fall.
- (b) Work hard lest you should fail.

(iii) advice:

- (a) You should study properly.
- (b) You should not take fats in your food.

(iv) guess:

- (a) It should be a rainy day tomorrow.
- (b) It shouldn't take you more than two hours to revise.

NEED

'Need' is used to express some necessity or obligation, generally in an interrogative sentence in the present tense.

- (i) Need we wait for him any longer?
- (ii) Need I pay more?

NEEDN'T / NEED NOT

(3)

'Needn't / need not' is used to express necessity in the negative sense.

- Examples:
- (a) You need not wait for her.
 - (b) You needn't shout any more, she is already here.

OUGHT TO

'Ought to' is used to express

(i) obligation:

- (a) We ought to respect our elders.
- (b) You ought to obey your teachers.

(ii) duty:

- (a) You ought to work for your country.
- (b) We ought to help the poor.

OUGHT NOT

'Ought not' is the negative form of 'ought'.

Examples

- (i) We ought not to disrespect our elders.
- (ii) He ought not to have stolen it.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate modals.

- (a) Anand : you come to the play?
Ravi : I am afraid I not.
Anand : Why you come to the play?
Ravi : Because I to prepare for the class test tomorrow.
Anand : I to prepare also. We will go on Wednesday then.
- (b) Mother : Ram, you go to the market?
Ram : I go the market today itself?
Mother : Yes. You put it off for tomorrow.
Ram : Why I?
Mother : Because you to stop procrastinating your duties.
- (c) Son : you buy me an ice cream today?
Father : No, I for the doctor said you (not) have ice cream.
Son : Why (not) I have an ice cream?
Father : Because you be careful lest you catch cold again.
- (d) We paint the house before Diwali. We paint the exterior grey but for the interiors we continue with green as we (not) change the upholstery to match the paint but we use a textured paint to change the look of the rooms.
- (e) We delay any more to start for the station as the train be on time.
We reach the station 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled time so that we don't to hurry to get on the train and plenty of time to put our luggage on the train before it starts.
- (f) Rohini to get her tooth extracted because the doctor told that her tooth was badly infected and it be extracted lest it infect the other teeth. After the extraction of tooth, Rohini eat only semi-solid food and eat anything cold.
- (g) Piya to leave early from work today as she received a message from her mother stating that she reach home early today as they to go to the temple which was