



# UNIT 3

## THE MODAL VERBS

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE ECONOMICHE, GIURIDICHE E POLITICHE  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI

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# UNIT 4 GETTING RICH QUICK P. 53

Duncan Bannatyne is a successful businessman with a chain of health clubs and hotels. He also appears on the BBC series *Dragons' Den*, where he judges new entrepreneurial ideas.

## Personal Qualities

be ambitious	/am'biʃəs/
be charming	/'tʃɑ:mɪŋ/
be confident	/'kɒnfɪd(ə)nt/
be determined	/dɪ'tə:mɪnd/
be egotistical	/,ɛgə'tɪstɪk(ə)l/
be extravagant	/ɪk'strævəg(ə)nt/
be flexible	/'fleksɪb(ə)l/
be generous	/'dʒen(ə)rəs/
be good with figures	/'fɪgəs/
be good with people	/'pi:p(ə)l/
be mean	/mi:n/
be tolerant	/'tɒl(ə)r(ə)nt/
have a sense of humour	/'hju:mə/
know your strengths and weaknesses	/streŋθ,streŋkθ/
work long hours	/'aʊə/

**entrepreneur** /,ɛ:ntɹəprə'nɜ:r/  
someone who starts a company  
and arranges business deals

/,i:gə'tɪstɪk(ə)l/  
/ɛk'strævəg(ə)nt/

/streŋθ,streŋkθ/    /'wi:knəs/

**b** Read the article again and write true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Bannatyne's favourite school subject was English.
- 2 He wasn't very good at sports.
- 3 He wanted to go to high school to make his parents proud.
- 4 When he left school he worked as a mechanic before joining the navy.
- 5 He was nearly thirty when he set up his first business.

- F  
 T  
 F  
 F  
 T

The only thing I enjoyed at school was maths. I had the ability to add up, but my maths teacher didn't have much time for me because I couldn't write down how I got the answers. I hated things like English – I was slightly dyslexic. I was hopeless at sport, too, having no coordination. I could see that the kids who went to high school had better toys than me so I made it my mission to do as well as I could, so that I could pass the exam and get into the best school. I worked hard, and when I passed – I was the only one in the family who did – my parents were so proud of me.

I started delivering newspapers when my mother said I couldn't have an ice cream because we were too poor. When I went to the newsagent's, he told me that there was no need for a delivery boy. I said that my mother would like her paper delivered, but he told me, 'That's one person; I need 100.' I knocked on 150 doors. When the ice cream van came around again, I had enough money to buy ice creams for my whole family.

When I left school, I didn't use my entrepreneurial skills for fifteen years. I was in the Navy and then worked as a garage mechanic. It was always at the back of my mind, though. When I was twenty-nine, I was on a beach in the Channel Islands with my girlfriend and we decided to go back to the mainland and make money. Believe it or not, my first entrepreneurial venture was *Duncan's Super Ices*, which expanded from a single ice cream van to a small fleet.

Adapted from *The Independent*.

# MODALS OF ABILITY UNIT 7.3

**7** Look at the Active grammar box and tick (✓) the correct boxes. Use the sentences in exercise 6a to help you.

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## Active grammar

	General ability	Succeed in actually doing something
can/can't	✓	
could/couldn't	✓	
be able to/not be able to (or be unable to)	✓	✓
manage to/not manage to		✓

In the present tense we usually use **be able to** after another verb.

*I'd like **to be able to** help you.*

We use **managed to** when the speaker believes that the action is difficult for the person doing it.

*Have you **managed to** finish that essay yet?*

## Modals of ability, past and present

We use *can*, *could* and *be able to* to describe general ability.

*I **can** swim but I **can't** dive.*

*I **could** speak French, but I **couldn't** speak German when I was at school.*

*I **was able to** run much faster when I was younger.*

We do not often use *be able to* in the present tense unless it is after another verb.

*I want to **be able to** help my kids with their homework.*

We use *be able to* to describe when someone actually succeeded in doing something, not *could*.

*She **was able to** visit him every week.*

*She **could** visit him every week.* – This means she had the ability, but NOT that she actually did it.

If we want to emphasise that the action is difficult, we can use *manage to* in the present or past.

*I usually **manage to** visit forty countries every year.*

*I **managed to** finish the book but it was very boring.*

In the negative we can use *couldn't*, *wasn't able to*, and *didn't manage to* for a specific action.

*I **couldn't** book the tickets.*

*I **wasn't able to** book the tickets.*

*I **didn't manage to** book the tickets.*

# MODALS OF ABILITY

# UNIT 7.3

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**4** Underline all the words in *italics* which are possible.

- 1 I'm studying English because I want to *can/ be able to/could* speak to overseas visitors.
- 2 How many languages *can/do you manage to/ are you able to* speak?
- 3 When I was younger I *can/could/was able to* touch my toes easily.
- 4 The door was stuck but finally I *could/ managed to/ was able to* open it.
- 5 I'd like to help you but I *couldn't/can't/ don't manage to*.
- 6 Yesterday I *couldn't/can't/wasn't able to* drive home because my car broke down.

Complete the sentences with one of the options to express present and past ability or possibility.

- 1 ..... find a job when you lived in Spain?  
A Could you    B Were you able to    C Did you manage to
2. The shop is closed. We ..... go there on Sunday.  
A can't    B aren't able to    C manage to
3. Mum is ill. I'm afraid she ..... cook for us at the weekend.  
A can't    B won't be able to    C couldn't
4. Fortunately, I can speak Spanish a little bit. I ..... give them directions when they came.  
A could    B was able to    C can
5. Peter had nothing to do yesterday morning. That's why he ..... cut the grass before it started to rain.  
A could    B was able to    C managed to
6. Ann felt much better today, so she ..... go out.  
A could    B was able to    C managed to

# MODALS OF ABILITY

# UNIT 7.3

NTE p. 104

**4** Underline all the words in *italics* which are possible.

- 1 I'm studying English because I want to ~~can/~~ be able to / ~~could~~ speak to overseas visitors.
- 2 How many languages can / ~~do you manage to/~~ ~~are you able to~~ speak?
- 3 When I was younger I can/could / ~~was able to~~ touch my toes easily.
- 4 The door was stuck but finally I ~~could/~~ managed to / ~~was able to~~ open it.
- 5 I'd like to help you but I ~~couldn't/can't/~~ don't manage to.
- 6 Yesterday I ~~couldn't/can't/~~ wasn't able to drive home because my car broke down.

Complete the sentences with one of the options to express present and past ability or possibility.

1. ....**B**..... find a job when you lived in Spain?  
A Could you      B Were you able to      C Did you manage to
2. The shop is closed. We .....**A**..... go there on Sunday.  
A can't      B aren't able to      C don't manage to
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# MODALS OF OBLIGATIONS AND PROHIBITION

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## Listening

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**4 a** 1:33 Listen to the first part of a seminar and answer the questions. Who is it for? What is the topic?



**b** 1:34 Listen to the rest of the seminar. What entrepreneurial qualities does the speaker mention?



**c** Listen again and complete the notes below.

### How to be an entrepreneur

Be mean. You shouldn't (1) be too generous. You should start (2) early.  
 You mustn't (3) waste your money. Bill Gates doesn't care about looking good because he doesn't have to (4) look good. Be confident.  
 You must (5) believe in yourself. You have to work (6) hard. Be ambitious.

**5** Match the modal verbs in **bold** in exercise 4c with the correct meaning (A–E) in the Active grammar box. Then answer the question.

### Active grammar

A I strongly advise you to do it.    C It's the right thing to do, in my opinion.

1 must    2 have to    3 should

B I strongly advise you not to do it.    D It isn't the right thing to do in my opinion.    E It is not necessary but you can do it if you want to.

4 You shouldn't    5 you mustn't    6 you don't have to

Look at these pairs of sentences. In each case do the modal verbs express advice (A) or obligation (O)?

- (O) *You **mustn't** smoke in here.*
- (A) *You **mustn't** waste your money.*
- (O) *You **have to** wear a suit to work.*
- (A) *You **have to** see that film!*
- (A) *You **must** believe in yourself.*
- (O) *You **must** have a passport if you want to enter the country.*

OBLIGATION	PROHIBITION	RECOMMENDATION	NO OBLIGATION
HAVE TO (rules/laws)		HAVE TO	DON'T HAVE TO
MUST (the speaker)	MUSTN'T	MUST	
		SHOULD/SHOULDN'T (- f)	
		NEED TO	DON'T NEED TO
	AREN'T ALLOWED TO		
OUGHT TO		OUGHT TO (+ form)	

# MODALS OF OBLIGATIONS AND PROHIBITION

## Modals of obligation and prohibition

### Obligation

*Have to* is often used for rules/regulations.

You **have to** show your passport at Customs. (It's a law.)

*Must* is often used when the obligation comes from the speaker. *Must* is never followed by *to*.

I **must stop smoking**. (I think this.)

Both *have to* and *must* can also be used to advise someone strongly to do something.

You **must start looking after yourself better!**

### Prohibition

*Mustn't* means *it is prohibited/not allowed*.

You **mustn't eat in the classroom**.

### No obligation

*Don't have to* means you have a choice.

You **don't have to wear a suit to work**. (It's not necessary but you can if you want to.)

### Recommendation

You **should go**. (It's a good idea.)

You **shouldn't smoke**. (It isn't a good idea.)

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NTE p. 62

## 4 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 1 People under eighteen *don't have to/mustn't* smoke in England. It's illegal.
- 2 You *don't have to/mustn't* eat if you don't want to. It's your choice.
- 3 You *don't have to/mustn't* be late for work.
- 4 Ken's so rich he *doesn't have to/mustn't* work.
- 5 We *don't have to/mustn't* miss the last bus.
- 6 Markus *doesn't have to/mustn't* work on Sundays, but he often goes into the office.

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# MODALS OF OBLIGATIONS AND PROHIBITION

INSERT THE APPROPRIATE MODAL VERB IN THE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE FORM: *have to, must, ought to, should, need to*

1. "When I was younger, I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) eleven hours a day," Grandma said.
2. Come on, we \_\_\_\_\_ (hurry). We \_\_\_\_\_ (be late)!
3. I watered the plants yesterday, and now it's pouring down. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not bother)!
4. Anne \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a uniform in school. She hates it.
5. Nowadays, young children \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in factories. A hundred years ago, many of them \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. He said he was sorry he \_\_\_\_\_ (go), but he \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the last underground train.
7. "You \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in bed by nine," their mother said. Susie grumbled, "Why \_\_\_\_\_ (always/go) to sleep so early? It's not fair!"
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not leave) so early -we arrived two hours before my parents' arrival, and now we'll \_\_\_\_\_ (wait).

# MODALS OF OBLIGATIONS AND PROHIBITION

INSERT THE APPROPRIATE MODAL VERB IN THE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE FORM: *have to, must, ought to, should, need to*

1. "When I was younger, I HAD TO WORK (work) eleven hours a day," Grandma said.
2. Come on, we SHOULD/NEED TO (hurry). We MUST BE LATE (be late)!
3. I watered the plants yesterday, and now it's pouring down. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED (bother)!
4. Anne HAS TO WEAR (wear) a uniform in school. She hates it.
5. Nowadays, young children MUSTN'T WORK (not work) in factories. A hundred years ago, many of them HAD TO .
6. He said he was sorry he HAD TO GO (go), but he NEEDED/HAD TO CATCH (catch) the last underground train.
7. "You MUST BE (be) in bed by nine," their mother said. Susie grumbled, "Why DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO GO (always/go) to sleep so early? It's not fair!"
8. We SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT (not leave) so early -we arrived two hours before my parents' arrival, and now we'll HAVE TO WAIT (wait).

Uses of **Must**:**Obligation or Duty**

- You **must** wear a seatbelt when you drive.
- You **must** eat all of your vegetables.

**Deduction** (certain something is true)

- Look at all that snow. It **must** be cold outside.
- I heard a noise upstairs. Mary **must** be home.

**Emphasize Necessity**

- Plants **must** have light and water to grow.
- You **must** study if you want good grades.

**Strong Recommendation**

- We **must** get together for dinner soon.
- These cupcakes are yummy. You **must** try one.

**Positive Assumption (Past)**  
**Must + Have + Past Participle**

- That **must** have been my mother calling me while I was in the meeting. No one else has my private phone number.

**must + verb \***\* The **base form of the infinitive**  
= ~~to~~ go, ~~to~~ study, ~~to~~ speak, etc.He **must** ~~s~~ stop. ❌He **must** stop. ✅You **must** ~~to~~ go. ❌You **must** go. ✅She **must** ~~s~~ wait. ❌She **must** wait. ✅**Mustn't = Must not**It is important that you  
do NOT do something.

= it is prohibited

= it is not allowed

- You **mustn't** use your phone while driving.

Uses of **Should**:**Advice or Suggestion**

- Your hair is too long. You **should** get a haircut.

**Situation likely in the present**

- Mary **should** be at home now. Give her a call.

**Likely in the future** (prediction)

- They **should** win tonight, they're a better team.

**Should + have + past participle***Meaning: The subject did not fulfill their obligation in the past or did not act responsibly.*

- You **should have given** your boss the report yesterday when he asked for it.

**Should + be + verb-ing***Meaning: The subject is not fulfilling their obligation now or is not acting sensibly.*

- You **should be wearing** your seatbelt.
- We **should be studying** for the test right now.

**SHOULD vs. OUGHT TO****Should** can be replaced by **ought to** without a change in meaning.

- You **ought to** study more. =
- You **should** study more.

Note: **ought to** sounds more formal than **should** and is used less frequently.We use **SHOULDN'T** to advise **not** to do something, usually because it is bad or wrong.

- You **shouldn't** throw your litter onto the street.
- He **shouldn't** play with those wires if he doesn't know what he is doing.
- You **shouldn't** work so much.

## MUST vs. HAVE TO

## MUST

The *speaker* thinks it is necessary.  
Personal opinion.  
Written rules/instructions.

## HAVE TO

*Another person* thinks it is necessary.  
External obligation.  
Facts, not opinions.

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*The teacher is giving the students an obligation / instructions.*

**TEACHER:** You **must** complete the essay by Friday.

**STUDENT:** We **have to** complete the essay by Friday.

*The teacher has given us the obligation / instructions.*

We use *Had to* instead of *Must* in the past tense.

- *I had to pay my speeding ticket yesterday.*

*Have to* is more common than *Must* in questions.

- *When do you have to finish the report?*

MUSTN'T vs.  
DON'T HAVE TO

BE CAREFUL: There is a difference in meaning between *Mustn't* and *Don't have to*.

## Mustn't

It is prohibited.  
It is not allowed.  
It is important that you do NOT do something.

## Negative Obligation

You **must not** drink that.

- = It is forbidden to drink that.
- = Don't drink that, it is not allowed.
- = It is important that you do NOT drink that.

You **mustn't** tell John.

- = Do NOT tell John.
- = You are not allowed to tell John.

She **mustn't** come.

- = It is important that she does NOT come.

## Don't have to

There is no obligation.  
You are not required to do something, especially if you don't want to.

## Absence of Obligation

You **don't have to** drink that.

- = You don't need to drink that but you can if you want to.
- = There is no obligation to drink that. You decide if you want to.

You **don't have to** tell John.

- = You can tell John if you want to but it is not necessary.

She **doesn't have to** come.

- = She is not required to come but she can if she wants to.

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# PRACTICE

## COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH MUSTN'T OR DON'T HAVE TO.

1. YOU \_\_\_\_\_ COME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ BE AT THE MEETING BUT I THINK I'LL GO ANYWAY.
3. PASSENGERS \_\_\_\_\_ SPEAK TO THE DRIVER.
4. YOU \_\_\_\_\_ EAT IT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT.
5. IN BOXING, YOU \_\_\_\_\_ HIT YOUR OPPONENT BELOW THE BELT.
6. THEY \_\_\_\_\_ TALK TO EACH OTHER DURING THE EXAM.
7. YOU \_\_\_\_\_ PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS NOW BUT YOU CAN IF YOU WANT.
8. YOU \_\_\_\_\_ PLAY WITH THOSE WIRES. THEY'RE DANGEROUS.

## *Complete these sentences with must or have to.*

1. The bus leaves at 10.15. She ..... leave at 10 if she wants to catch it.
2. The British Library: "Coats and bags ..... be left at the cloakroom or in a locker".
3. Jim can't see very well. He ..... wear glasses.
4. You ..... see the film. It's fantastic.
5. John, you ..... be nice to your mum.
6. Oh, no! It's Monday tomorrow. I ..... go to school again.
7. English children ..... go to school till they are 16.
8. OK, you can go to the party, but you ..... be back before midnight.
9. A flight attendant: "All mobile phones ..... be switched off during the takeoff."
10. The metro station is closed. I ..... get a taxi.

# PRACTICE

## COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH MUSTN'T OR DON'T HAVE TO.

1. YOU don't have to COME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
2. I don't have to BE AT THE MEETING BUT I THINK I'LL GO ANYWAY.
3. PASSENGERS mustn't SPEAK TO THE DRIVER.
4. YOU don't have to EAT IT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT.
5. IN BOXING, YOU mustn't HIT YOUR OPPONENT BELOW THE BELT.
6. THEY mustn't TALK TO EACH OTHER DURING THE EXAM.
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8. OK, you can go to the party, but you .....must..... be back before midnight.
9. A flight attendant: "All mobile phones .....have to..... be switched off during the takeoff."
10. The tube station is closed. I .....must..... get a taxi.