AUXILIARY VERBS

There are three types of auxiliary verbs in English:

A.- TO BE, TO HAVE, TO DO.
* They are main verbs:
  I am happy / We have it / We do the washing.
* But sometimes they are the auxiliary to form:
  -- continuous tenses. *I am writing.*
  -- passive voice. *It is done.*
  -- perfect tenses. *She has gone.*
  -- negative and interrogative sentences.
  I don't know. Does she go there?

B.- WILL, SHALL, WOULD. They are never main verbs. They are used to form tenses:
  -- WILL, SHALL, future. *It will rain.*
  -- WOULD, conditional. *He would stay here.*

C.- CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT, SHOULD, OUGHT TO, MUST, HAVE TO(**), NEED. They are **MODAL VERBS.**
* They aren't the main verb and don't form tenses.
* They help the main verb to explain some aspects (ability, possibility, prohibition …)
* They are followed by infinitive (without "to")
* They are defective:
  -- They haven't got "s" in the 3rd. person singular.
  -- " " " infinitive, gerund, participle.
  -- We don't use DO in negations and questions.
  -- Two modal verbs can't be together in the same sentence.

(**)HAVE TO is a semi-modal verb. It may have a similar meaning to a modal, but it takes "s" in the third person singular: *He has to go now*; negatives and questions are formed with the auxiliary *do: Do you have to go now?*

	ABILITY	POSSIBILITY	PERMISSION	ADVICE	OBLIGATION	NECESSITY	PROHIBITION	DEDUCTION	REQUESTS	OFFERS	SUGGESTIONS
WILL									✓		
SHALL										✓	✓
WOULD									✓		
CAN	✓		✓					✓*	✓		
COULD	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
MAY		✓	✓						✓		
MIGHT		✓	✓								
SHOULD				✓							
OUGHT TO				✓							
MUST					✓		✓*	✓			
HAVE TO					✓	✓*					
NEED						✓					

- in negative form

Uses

ABILITY	*CAN*	Ability, capability and knowledge to do something	*You can't open the door. It's closed* *Sarah can play three instruments*
	COULD	General ability in the past. But in negative it's for general and particular situation	*When I was younger, I could run 10 km* *She couldn't speak French.* *She couldn't speak to me yesterday*
	TO BE ABLE TO	When *CAN* or *COULD* aren't possible.	*I will be able to study more*
		In past it's used in a particular situation	*When I saw the dog, I wasn't able to run*
PERMISSION	*CAN*	Things that are (not) permitted	*The class is over. You can leave now*
	COULD	More formal.	*(in a shop) Could I have a look?*
		It isn't used to give permission	*Of course, you can/may.*
	MAY	Very formal	*May I ask you a personal question?*
	TO BE ALLOWED TO	When the rest aren't possible	*I won't be allowed to do that, sure.*
OBLIGATION	*MUST*	Only in present (when the subject puts the obligation	*You must stay here*
	HAVE TO *NEED TO*	In present when the obligation is external	*I have to stay in bed. Doctor's order*
		for the rest of the tenses	*Did you have to buy this?*
PROHIBITION	*MUSTN'T/CAN'T*	Obligation not to do something	*You mustn't smoke here*
NECESSITY	*NEED (TO)*	In affirmative it's a normal verb	*He needs to rest sometimes*
		In negative you can use the normal verb o the modal one	*You don't need to carry heavy things* *You needn't carry heavy things*
	DON'T HAVE TO	It's not necessary	*You don't have to carry heavy things*
	HAVE TO	In future	*You'll have to stay in hospital for surgery*
ADVICE OPINION	*SHOULD*	To ask for and give advice. In past, use perfect infinitive	*You shouldn't smoke so much* *You are ill, you shouldn't have smoked*
	OUGHT TO	Stronger than *SHOULD*	*You oughtn't to smoke so much*
POSSIBILITY	*CAN* *COULD* *BE ABLE TO*	Certainty In negative means impossibility Speculating about the past	*It could rain* *You couldn't run a marathon* *You could have run faster last day*
	MAY	Less possible Speculating about the past	*It may rain* *Yesterday it may have rained*
	MIGHT	Remote possibility. Speculating about the past	*It might rain* *Yesterday it might have rained*
DEDUCTION	*MUST*	We are sure or for speculation In past	*I must have flu* *She must have had flu*
	CAN'T	We're sure something isn't true In past. Disbelief	*He can't be your husband* *He can't have been/couldn't have been*
REQUEST	*CAN*	Informal	*Can I borrow your pen?*
	COULD	Polite	*Could you close the door, please?*
	WOULD/WILL/MAY	More polite	*Will you give me some money?*
OFFERS	*WOULD*	Polite	*Would you like more coffee?*
	SHALL	First person	*Shall I open the door?*
SUGGESTION	*SHOULD* *OUGHT TO*	Similar to giving advice	*You should /ought to save more money if you want to buy a car*
	SHALL / COULD	First person	*Shall we dance?*

MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST (PERFECT MODALS)

> Modal verb + HAVE + Past Participle

1.- could have done = we had the ability to do something in the past but did not do it.

- *You could have told us about the new project!*
- *She could have called me when she arrived but she forgot.*

2. could / may / might have done = it is possible that something happened in the past but we aren't sure**.**

- *Laura hasn't arrived yet. She may/might/could have missed the bus.*

3. needn't have done = it wasn't necessary to do something but we did it.

- *You needn't have gone to the supermarket. I've already done the shopping.*
- *The weather was warm and sunny. I needn't have taken an umbrella.*

4. should have / ought to have done = (a) it was the right thing to do but we didn't do it. (b) we expected something to happen but it didn't.

- *You should have told him the truth.*
- *They ought to have received the cheque by now.*

5. must have done = we are almost sure something happened in the past

- Jane wasn't feeling well yesterday. She must have caught a cold.
- Bill didn't answer the phone when I called him. He must have fallen asleep.

  can't have done = we are almost sure something did not happen in the past

- *She can't have forgotten to send you an invitation. I gave her your address.*
- *They can't have gone to bed late. They were very tired.*

6.- may / might have done = we can guess something of the past .

- *I didn't see Paul at work. He may/might/could have been ill.*

7. would have done = we wanted to do something but we didn't do it in the end.

- *They would have emailed you but the Internet was down yesterday.*
- *I would have bought that DVD but I didn't have enough money.*

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1. Ability: COULD + HAVE + P.P. (it didn't happen)

2. Possibility: COULD / MAY / MIGHT + HAVE + P.P.

3. Absence of obligation: NEEDN'T + HAVE + P.P. (it's unnecessary)

4. Criticism / regret: SHOULD / OUGHT TO + HAVE + P.P.

5. Deduction: MUST (certainty it's true)
            COULDN'T / CAN'T + HAVE + P.P. (certainty it didn't happen)

6. Guess: MAY/MIGHT + HAVE + P.P.
.
7. Undone desire: WOULD + HAVE + P.P.

NEED (TO)

Need

Note from the above examples that ***need*** can either act as a <u>modal verb</u> or as an <u>ordinary verb</u>.
When it acts as a modal auxiliary verb it is nearly always used in negative sentences, as the above examples illustrate, although it is sometimes also used in questions as a modal verb:

*****Need** you leave straightaway? Can't you stay longer?*
*****Need** I say more? I would like you to stay.*

When it is used as an ordinary verb with **to** before the following infinitive and with an **s** in the third person singular, it appears in both affirmative and negative sentences and in questions:

*She's almost dehydrated. She **needs** a drink. She **needs** to drink something before she has anything to eat. She **doesn't need to** stay in bed, but she should have a good rest before she sets off again. ~ Do I **need** to stay with her? ~ Yes, I think you should*

Needn't and **don't need to**

There is a difference in use when these verbs are used to describe present situations. We can use both ***needn't*** and ***don't need to*** to give permission to someone not to do something in the immediate future. We can also use ***need*** as a noun here:

*You **don't need to** water the garden this evening. It's going to rain tonight.*
*You **needn't** water the garden this evening. It's going to rain tonight.*
*There's **no need to** water the garden this evening. It's going to rain tonight.*

*You **don't need to** shout. It's a good line. I can hear you perfectly.*
*You **needn't** shout. It's a good line. I can hear you perfectly.*
*There's **no need to** shout.. I can hear you perfectly.*

However, when we are talking about general necessity, we normally use ***don't need to***:

*You **don't need to** pay for medical care in National Health Service hospitals.*
*You **don't need to** be rich to get into this golf club. You just need a handicap.*

Needn't have and **didn't need to**

Both forms are used to talk about past events, but there is sometimes a difference in use. When we say that someone ***needn't have*** done something, it means that they did it, but it was not necessary. ***Didn't need to*** is also sometimes used in this way:

*You **needn't have** washed the dishes. I would've put them in the dishwasher.*
*You **didn't need to** wash the dishes. I would've put them in the dishwasher.*

But we also use ***didn't need to*** to say that something was not necessary under circumstances where it was not done:

*The sun came out so we **didn't need** to take any raincoat on the trip.*

Had Better / Should

HAD BETTER + INFINITIVE without "to" = es/sería mejor que + verbo en subjuntivo

- *You'd better tell her everything.*

Although **had** is the past form of *"have"*, we use **had better** to give advice about the present or future.

- *I'd better get back to work.*
- *We'd better meet early.*

The negative form is **had better not.**

- *You'd better not say anything.*
- *I'd better not come.*

We use **had better** to give advice about specific situations, not general ones and it is more coliquial. If you want to talk about general situations, you must use **should**.

- *You should brush your teeth before you go to bed.*
- *I shouldn't listen to negative people.*

When we give advice about specific situations, it is also possible to use **should**.

- *You shouldn't say anything.*
- *I should get back to work.*
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However, when we use **had better** there is a suggestion that if the advice is not followed, that something bad will happen. You can also translate it **MÁS VALE QUE + verbo en subjuntivo**

- You'd better do what I say or else you will get into trouble.
- I'd better get back to work or my boss will be angry with me.
- We'd better get to the airport by five or else we may miss the flight.