

649 A

Modal Auxiliaries (Continued)

I- HAVE TO

Have to = *Have got to* they are used to express:

1) Obligation:

- You have (got) to be back by 12 O'clock. (It is obligatory.....)
- She will have to leave early.
- You have to be careful with your treasure. (It is necessary to.....)

Unlike *must*, *have (got) to* doesn't involve the authority of the speaker. It expresses obligation or requirement without specifying the person exercising power or influence.

- Someone will have to do the shopping. (This sentence can indirectly imply the speaker's involvement. It implies "I want to do it".)

2) Logical necessity :

- There has (got) to be some reason for his absurd behaviour.
(= that is necessary the case – no other explanation is possible).
- You have (got) to be joking.
- Someone had to lose the game (said in consolation to an unlucky card player).

NB: *have to* has the question and negative forms both with and without the auxiliary:

- Do you have to go now ? or
- Have you to go now?

Exercise:

Explain the meaning conveyed by the use of the modal *Have to* in each of the following sentences:

- 1- Pensioners have to be careful with their money.
- 2- The guests have to check out of the hotel by 12 noon.
- 3-A: We don't know the prices of textbooks for next year. The publishers won't send them until the books are printed.
B: Do we have to have them send us an estimate?
A: We don't always need that.
- 4- players have to be careful when they are playing.
5. Some changes in our way of living have to take place.

II. OUGHT TO/ SOULD

Ought to is used to express:

1) Moral obligation, Duty, Desirability

In most cases *ought to* can be replaced by *Should*; of the two, *ought to* is rather more emphatic.

- They ought to (should) pay the rent.

- He ought to (should) be ashamed of himself.

2) Likelihood, Strong probability, Deduction

- If you read your chapter on modals, you ought to (should) follow me with ease.

- Considering all the work you have done, you oughtn't (shouldn't) fail your exam.

Ought to does not change when expressing future (or past):

- You ought to get your degree in four years' time.

- You ought to be here next week.

3) A past obligation that was not fulfilled (Ought to + have)

- I ought to have told you about it last week. (but I didn't)

- I ought to (should) have written to her yesterday. (but I didn't)

- You ought to (should) have come earlier. (but you have just arrived)

Ought not + have (=should not have) express disapproval of something done in past:

- You ought not have (shouldn't have) spent that money on such trivial things.

- What I told you was confidential. You oughtn't have repeated it to her.

- Should and ought to + perfect infinitive refer to expectations in past time and may indicate that expectations were not realized or fulfilled:

- He should have passed the examination easily. (I expected him to pass his examination, but he didn't. This is probably after the results are known.)

Should / ought to used with the perfect infinitive always imply that the opposite was in fact true.

- He should / ought to have been a little tactful.

Exercise:

Use should or ought to (interchangeably) in these sentences.

1- The weather forecast says it will probably be fine tomorrow.

2- The Conservatives are expected to win the next election.

3- Our visitors were expected to arrive a long time before now.

4- There will probably be a lot of people at the meeting.

5- It is not advisable for the woman to read frightening books.

6- It is the duty of a good mother ought to love her children.

7- He is tired. It is advisable for him to sleep well tonight.

III. NEED

Need as an auxiliary / modal has the meaning of *have to*, it doesn't take "s" in the third person singular, its negative is formed by attaching *n't* to it and the interrogative is formed by inverting it (*Need I*):

- Need he work so hard? → *must he work so hard?*

- Need you go so early? → *Does he need to go so early?*

- You needn't have worried. → *you do not need to worry*

Note that the other form of *need* behaves as a lexical verb:

- He needs his mother.
- He doesn't need to see her.
- Does your hair need cutting?

Remember that *need* as a modal is mostly used only in negative and interrogative sentences and not in affirmative ones in which case it is replaced by *must* / *have to* / *ought to* / *should*:

- Need you go now? Yes, I must.
- You needn't see her, but I must.

It can be used in affirmative only when used with a negative adverb such as *never*, *scarcely*, *hardly*.....etc.

- I hardly need say how much you have to work.

-The past of *need* is *need have* +past participle:

- Need you have written to her the previous week?

Here are some uses of *need*:

- She sent me the letter I was expecting, I needn't write to her again= (I didn't write)
- She sent me the letter I was expecting, I needn't have written to her= (I wrote to her)

IV. Dare

Dare like *need* has two forms : a plain verb and a modal. In the affirmative it is always an ordinary verb. In the negative and interrogative forms it can be either.

Examples of *dare* as a modal:

- Dare you climb this mountain?
- Dare he go to face the boss?
- How dare you say so?
- You daren't see her in the eye, dare you? -Yes I dare.

(*Dare* meaning "challenge" is a normal verb: he dared me to walk down the avenue naked!), There is also the expression: *I daresay* = perhaps. E.g., *I dare say* not all of you seem to be motivated=used only with *I*)

V. Used (to)

As a past verb it expresses a past habit no longer existing .

- That is the teacher who used to teach me (now he doesn't).
- I used to smoke thirty cigarettes a day (but I don't now).
- Used you to cross the bridge over the Thames when you lived in England?
- I usedn't to make mistake.

(Note that those constructions of *used to* are less and less heard).

Do not confuse *Used to* with *to be used to*= present habit:

- I used to see her when I was young Vs. I am used to hearing her shout.

Note that both *used to* and *would* express a past habit, but *would* is used with a time adverbial such as "everyday, often.....;" with *used to*, this is not needed; with *would* we imply "willingness or voluntary action", whereas with *used to* we don't: so *would* cannot replace "used to" in:
-When he lived in Britain, he used to suffer from rheumatism.

VI. Had better

Had better is a modal auxiliary denoting advisability. It is used to suggest the wisest course of action in a particular situation.

- You'd better see a doctor if you're still feeling ill tomorrow.
- You had better study hard if you want to pass that examination.

In negative sentences the negative particle *not* comes after the complete phrase.

You'd better not make a mistake next time.

Exercise:

Rewrite the following sentences using the appropriate modals:

- 1- I had the habit to play football when I was a boy.
- 2- It is preferable for her to go to Spain than to Italy.
- 3- She was addicted to nicotine, but she stopped three years ago.
- 4- I urge you to be quick.
- 5- I warn him not to make a mistake.
- 6- They lived in Paris before the war, but from that time onwards they have lived in London.