

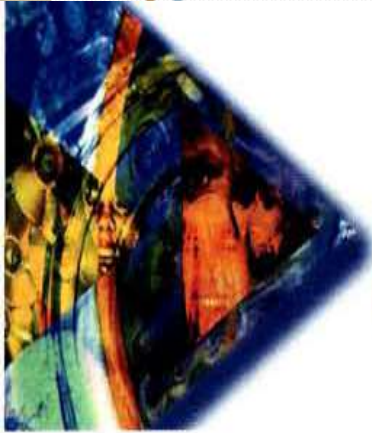


University of Basrah  
College of Education for Women  
History Department  
Third Stage  
Subject: English

Lecture 6

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# 4 Doing the right thing

Modal verbs 1 – obligation and permission • Nationality words • Requests and offers



## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

Look at the sentences.

I	can should must have to	go.
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- 1 Write the negatives.
- 2 Write the questions.
- 3 Write the third person singular.
- 4 Which verb is different?

*I'm sorry, but I have to go now.*



## UNIT 4

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### Introduction to modal verbs

The modal verbs are *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *will*, *would*, *should*, *ought to*. They are known as modal auxiliary verbs because they 'help' another verb. (See also Units 1, 5, 8, and 9.)

*I can swim.*

*Do you think I should go?*

## Form

- 1 There is no -s in the third person singular.  
*She **can** ski. He **must** be tired. It **might** rain.*
- 2 There is no *do/does/don't/doesn't* in the question or negative.  
*What **should** I do? **Can** I help you? You **mustn't** steal!*  
*He **can't** dance. I **won't** be a minute.*
- 3 Modal auxiliary verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to*. The exception is *ought to*.  
*You **must** go. I'll **help** you. You **ought to** see a doctor.*
- 4 They have no infinitives and no *-ing* forms. Other expressions are used instead.  
*I'd love to **be able to** ski.*  
*I hate **having to** get up on cold, winter mornings.*
- 5 They don't usually have past forms. Instead, we can use them with perfect infinitives:  
*You **should have told** me that you **can't** swim. You **might have** drowned!*  
or we use other expressions:  
*I **had to** work hard in school.*

## Note

*Could* is used with a past meaning to talk about a general ability.

*I **could** swim when I was six.* (= general ability)

To talk about ability on one specific occasion, we use *was able to/managed to*.

*The prisoner **was able to/managed to** escape by climbing on to the roof of the prison.* NOT ~~could~~-escape

## Use

- 1 Modal verbs express our attitudes, opinions, and judgements of events. Compare:  
*'Who's that knocking on the door?'*  
*'It's John.'* (This is a fact.)  
*'Who's that knocking on the door?'*  
*'It **could/may/might/must/should/can't/'ll** be John.'* (These all express our attitude or opinion.)
- 2 Each modal verb has at least two meanings. One use of all of them is to express possibility or probability. (See Unit 9 p147.)  
*I **must** post this letter!* (= obligation)  
*You **must** be tired!* (= deduction, probability)  
***Could** you help me?* (= request)  
*We **could** go to Spain for our holiday.* (= possibility)  
*You **may** go home now.* (= permission)  
*'Where's Anna?' 'I'm not sure. She **may** be at work.'* (= possibility)

## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Which two sentences mean the same?

I	am allowed to can have to	stay at my friend's house tonight.
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Which sentence expresses obligation? Which sentences express permission?

- 2 Complete the sentences with *have to* or *don't have to*.

Children \_\_\_\_\_ go to school.

Millionaires \_\_\_\_\_ work.

You \_\_\_\_\_ go to England if you want to learn English.

In England, you \_\_\_\_\_ drive on the left.

- 3 *Have got to* and *have to* both express obligation. *Have got to* refers to an obligation now or soon. It's often reduced to *gotta* /'gɒtə/ when we speak, especially in American English.

I've got to go now. Bye!

# PRACTICE

## Discussing grammar

1 Put these sentences into the negative, the question, and the past.

1 Henry can swim.

*Henry can't swim. Can Henry swim? Henry could swim.*

2 I have to wear a uniform.

3 She has to work hard.

4 He can do what he likes.

5 We're allowed to wear jeans.



1 All nationality words have capital letters in English.

the French    the Italians    the British

2 If the adjective ends in /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, or /tʃ/ there is no -s at the end of the word for the people.

Japanese    the Japanese

Spanish    the Spanish

3 Sometimes the word for the people is different from the adjective.

Scottish    the Scots

Finnish    the Finns





3 **T 4.11** Listen to the conversations. Complete the chart.

	Who are they?	What are they talking about?
1		
2		
3		
4		

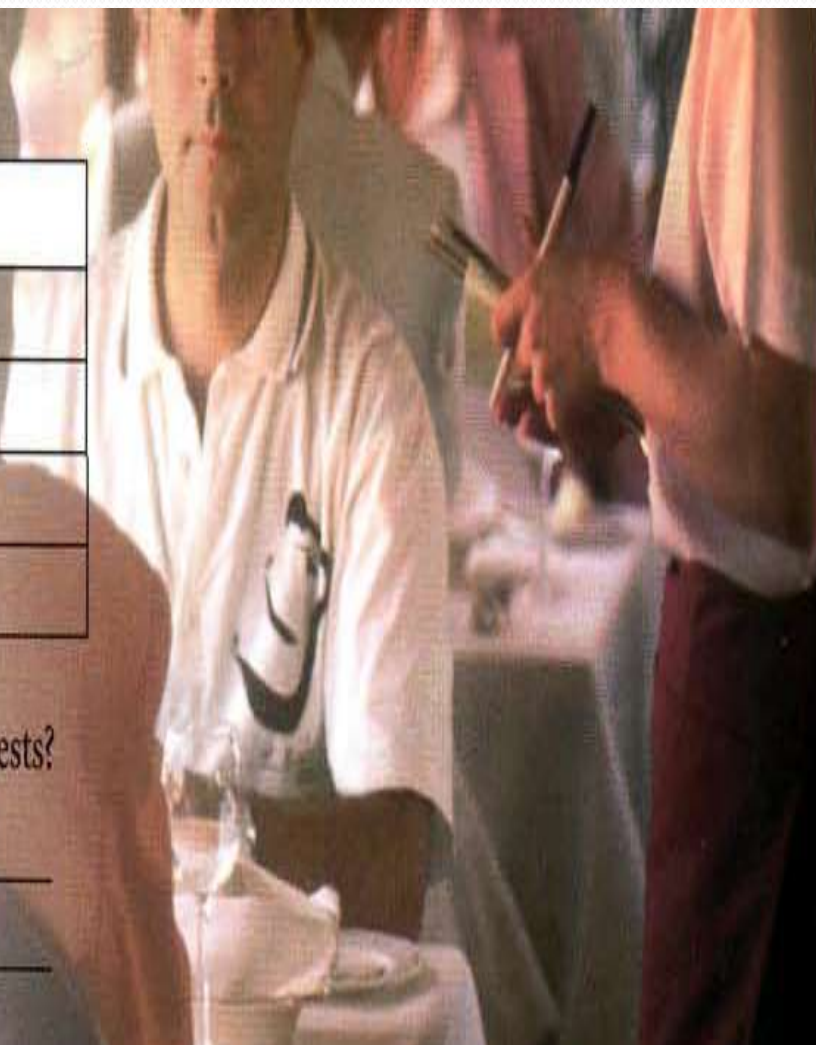
**T 4.11** Listen again. What are the words used to make the requests?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_





*Happy Saturday*

**Life goes by too quickly.**

**So laugh, love and try new things.**

**Forgive, forget and don't  
hold grudges.**

***Choose to be HAPPY***

**GOODMORNING**

GCP