SIMPLE MODALS

Examples	Functions	Modal
• I **can** speak three languages. • **Can** you tell me where the post office is? • **Can** I use your pen, please? • His story is strange, but it **can** be true.	• **Ability** • **Request** • **Permission** • **Possibility**	Can
• I **can't** speak German, but I speak a little Spanish.	• **Inability**	Can't
• She **can't** be his wife. He's very old and she' a teenager.	• **Impossibility**	Can't
• She **could** run faster when she was younger. • **Could** you pass the salt please?	• **Ability in the past** • **Request**	Could
• I **have to** go home now.	• **Necessity**	have (got) to
• It's cloudy today. It **may** rain this afternoon • **May** I go out, please?.	• **Possibility** • **Permission**	May
• He **might** come for dinner this evening.	• **Possibility**	Might
• You **must** give in your homework before Friday. • What you did was dangerous. You **must** be crazy.	• **Necessity / obligation** • **Certainty**	Must
• You **mustn't/ can't** drive beyond the speed limit.	•**Prohibition/no permission**	mustn't / can't
• You **don't have to/needn't** take heavy clothes. It'll be hot there	•**Absence of necessity/** •**no obligation.**	not have to needn't
• People with high cholesterol ~~should avoid fatty~~ foods.	• **Advice** •**recommendation**	should / ought to