

## Lecture Thirteen: Functional Grammar: Modal Verbs (can, must, should)

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to

\*use the modal verbs: **can**, **must**, and **should** correctly.

\* differentiate between their functions.

The modal verbs (or 'modal auxiliary verbs') are will, would, shall, should, can, could, may, might, must, need, ought to and dare.

\*I **must** go now. (Must has similar meaning with *have to*). It expresses *necessity*. Its negative form is *mustn't* or *needn't*. Its past form is *had to*.

\*We **can** park here. (Can has similar meaning with *be allowed to*). It expresses possibility, permission, or ability. Its negative form is *cannot*. It has two past forms: *could*, *was/were able to*, or *managed to*.

\*You **should** answer the letter. (Should has similar meaning with *ought to*). It expresses obligation, advice, or probability. Its negative form is *shouldn't*.

**Task 1:** Which goes with which? Find the sentences with a similar meaning.

1- You must be very quiet.	a- You mustn't stay here.
2- You must remember your password.	b- You mustn't be afraid.
3- You must be brave.	c -You mustn't think about it.
4- You must be on time.	d- You mustn't forget it.
5- You must leave the furniture as it is.	e -You mustn't be late.
6- You must go away.	f -You mustn't make any noise.
7- You must forget what happened	g- You mustn't move anything.

**Task 2:** Put in **must**, **can't**, or **should**.

- 1- You've been travelling all day. You must be tired.
- 2- That restaurant .....be very good. It's always full of people.
- 3- That restaurant .....be very good. It's always empty.
- 4- I'm sure Kate gave me her address. I .....have it somewhere.
- 5- I often see that man in this street. He .....live near here.
- 6- It rained every day during their holiday. It..... have been very nice for them.
- 7- Congratulations on passing your exam. You .....be very pleased.
- 8- You look tired. You ..... go to bed
- 9- This bill .....be correct. It's much too high.

## References

Eastwood, J. (1994). Oxford guide to English grammar. Oxford University Press.

Murphy, R. (2019). English Grammar in Use (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cambridge University Press.