

Auxiliary

Uses

Present / future

Past

may

1. Polite request

May I borrow?

☐

2. Formal permission

You **may leave** room.

3. Less than 50% certainty

A: Where's Tom?

B: He **may be** in the office.

He **may have been**

might

1. Less than 50% certainty

A: Where's Tom?

B: He **might be** in the office.

He **might have been**

2. polite request

Might I borrow

☐

should

1. advisability

I should help my mother

I	should	test	every	day.	then
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2. 90% certainty

She **should pass the exam!** (present)

She	should	have	passed
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ought to

1. advisability

<i>I ought to</i>	<i>study</i>
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I **ought to have studied**

2. 90% certainty

She **ought to have been** at the test. (not present)

She **ought to have studied**

had better

1. advisability with threat of bad result

You **had better be** here or we will leave without you.

(**past form uncommon**)

be supposed to

1. expectation

He **is supposed to come**

He **was supposed to come**

be to

1. strong expectation

You **are to be** at 9:00.

You **were to be** at 9:00

must

1. strong necessity

I **must go** to class today

I **had to go** to class yesterday

2. **prohibition** (negative)

You **mustn't open** that door.

3. 95% certainty

Mary **must** ~~is~~ ~~be~~ ~~pres~~ ~~be~~ only

Mary **must** ~~have~~ ~~been~~.

have to

1. necessity

I **have to** ~~go~~ today.

I **had to** ~~go~~ yesterday

2. ~~negative~~ necessity (

I **don't have to** ~~go~~.

I **had to** ~~go~~ yesterday.

have got to

1. necessity

I **have to go** to class today.

I **had to go** to class yesterday.

will

1. 100% certainty

He **will be** here at 6:00 only.

2. willingness

The phone's ringing.

I'll get it.

3. polite request

Will you **pass** the salt?

☐

be going to

1. 100% certainty

He **is going to be** only

☐

2. definite plan

I'm going to paint

I was going to paint didn't have time.

can

1. ability / possibility

I **can run**.

I **could swim** when I was a child but now I c

2. informal permission

You **can use** car tomorrow.

☐

3. informal polite request

Can you open?

☐

4. impossible only

That **can't** be!

That **can't** have been

could

1. past ability

I **could** swim when I was a child.

2. polite request

Could I borrow
Could you help me?

3. suggestion

A: I need help in English.

B: You **could talk** to your English teacher.

You **could have talked**.

4. less than 50% certainty

A: Where's John?

B: He **could be** here.

He **could have been**.

5. impossible only

That **couldn't be**.

That **couldn't have been**.

be able to

1. ability

~~I am able to help~~ **I am able to help**

~~I was able to help~~ **I was able to help**

would

1. polite request

~~Would you pass salt?~~ **Would you mind** if I left early?

2. preference

~~I would rather go to the cinema~~ **I would rather go to the cinema**

~~I would rather have gone to the cinema~~ **I would rather have gone to the cinema**

3. repeated action in the past

When I ~~would~~ **would** visit him, other every weekend.

used to

1. repeated action in the past

When I ~~would~~ **would** visit him, other every weekend.

shall

1. polite question to make a suggestions

Shall I open the window?

2. future with "I" or "we" as subject

I shall have **will** be **are** (common)