



verstehen

# 7 Modalverben

## Modalverben – Verwendung

Modalverben (*modal verbs*) benötigst du, wenn du **Können, eine Fähigkeit**, eine **Erlaubnis** oder eine **Verpflichtung** zum Ausdruck bringen willst.

	examples
Können/ Fähigkeit	<i>He can speak Italian very well.</i> – Er kann sehr gut Italienisch sprechen.
Erlaubnis	<i>You may (can) leave now.</i> – Du darfst (kannst) jetzt gehen. <i>May (Can) I have your exercise book, Pete?</i> – Darf (Kann) ich dein Heft haben, Pete? <i>May (Can) I play football outside for another hour?</i> – Darf (Kann) ich noch eine Stunde draußen Fußball spielen?
Verpflichtung	<i>You must tell me what happened.</i> – Du musst mir erzählen, was geschehen ist. <i>She must do the exercise once more.</i> – Sie muss die Übung noch einmal machen.

*Can, may* und *must* werden in allen Personen unverändert verwendet.

## Modalverben – Bildung

Die Verneinung von *can* lautet *can't* (auch: *cannot*):

<i>I can't do this job, it's too exhausting.</i>	Ich kann diese Arbeit nicht tun (machen), sie ist zu anstrengend.
<i>Can't you help me?</i>	Kannst du mir nicht helfen?

**Weitere Verneinungen sind:**

*May* → *may not*:

<i>May I help you? No, you may not.</i>	Darf (Kann) ich dir helfen? Nein.
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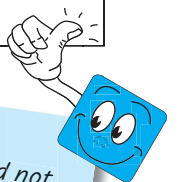
**Vorsicht.**

<i>Must you pay your cell phone bill? No, I needn't.</i>	<b>Musst</b> du deine Handyrechnung selbst bezahlen? Nein.
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<i>You mustn't touch this animal.</i>	Du <b>darfst</b> dieses Tier <b>nicht</b> berühren.
<i>You needn't buy another ruler.</i>	Du <b>musst (brauchst)</b> <b>kein</b> neues Lineal kaufen.



Die Verneinung von *must* lautet also *need not* (oder: *needn't*) und bedeutet **nicht brauchen!** Auch *must not (mustn't)* wird verwendet, aber dies bedeutet **nicht dürfen**.





Die Modalverben *can*, *may*, *must* und ihre Verneinungen können nur im *simple present* verwendet werden. Um Modalverben auch in anderen Zeiten zu gebrauchen, benötigst du Hilfskonstruktionen.

### Können/Fähigkeit – Ersatzformen zu *can/can't*: **to be able to** (können)

<i>simple present</i>	<i>I can swim. / I'm able to swim. Can you read? Are you able to read? Can't you phone? Aren't you able to phone?</i>
<i>simple past</i>	<i>I could swim. / I was able to swim. Could you swim / Were you able to swim? Couldn't you phone? Weren't you able to phone?</i>
<i>simple present perfect</i>	<i>I have been able to swim. Have you been able to swim? Hasn't he been able to phone?</i>
<i>will-future</i>	<i>I will be able to swim. Will you be able to swim? Won't he be able to swim?</i>

### Erlaubnis/Verbot – Ersatzform zu *can/can't*: **to be allowed to** (dürfen)

<i>simple present</i>	<i>I can/may talk. / I'm allowed to talk. Can/May you talk? Are you allowed to read? Can't you talk? Aren't you allowed to talk?</i>
<i>simple past</i>	<i>I was allowed to watch TV. Was I allowed to watch TV? Weren't you (Wasn't he) allowed to watch TV? He wasn't allowed to ...</i>
<i>simple present perfect</i>	<i>I have been allowed to draw. Have you been allowed to draw? Hasn't he been allowed to draw? They haven't been allowed to ...</i>
<i>will-future</i>	<i>I will be allowed to play ... Will you be allowed to play ...? Won't he be allowed to play ...? She won't be allowed to play ...</i>

### Verpflichtung / nicht müssen – Ersatzform zu *must*: **to have to** (müssen)

<i>simple present</i>	<i>She must take a shower. She has to take a shower. Does she have to take a shower? She doesn't have to take a shower. Aber auch: She need not (needn't) take a shower.</i>
<i>simple past</i>	<i>She had to take a shower. Did she have to take a shower? She didn't have to take a shower. Didn't she have to take a shower?</i>
<i>will-future</i>	<i>She will have to take a shower. Will she have to take a shower? She won't have to take a shower. Won't she have to take ...</i>

Du hast es sicher bemerkt: Die Form **to have to** wird als **Vollverb** verwendet, das heißt, in **Fragen** und in **verneinten Aussagesätzen** brauchst du die Umschreibung mit **to do** im **simple present** und im **simple past**.

*Does she have to take a shower?*

*Did she have to go?*