

Unit 9

I. Modal Verbs of Probability

We can use these modal verbs when we want to make a guess about something.

1: Talking about the present:

must / might / could / may / can't + infinitive

For example:

I am waiting for Julie with another friend, David.

I ask: 'Where is Julie?'

David guesses:

She must be on the bus. (I'm fairly sure this is a good guess)

She might come soon. (maybe)

She could be lost. (maybe)

She may be in the wrong room. (maybe)

She can't be at home. (I'm fairly sure this isn't true)

Notice that the opposite of 'must' is 'can't' in this case.

Will / won't

We use will and won't when we are very sure:

She'll be at work now.

Should / shouldn't

Should and shouldn't are used to make an assumption about what is probably true, if everything is as we expect:

They **should** be there by now.

It **shouldn't** take long to drive here.

This use of should isn't usually used for negative events. Instead, it's a better idea to use will:

The underground **will** be very busy now (not: 'should be').

Can

Can is used for something that is generally possible, something we know sometimes happens:

Prices **can** be high in London.

Can is not used to talk about specific possibilities:
He could be on the bus (not: 'can be').

2. Using modal verbs to talk about the past:

must / might / could / may / can't + have + past participle

must have + past participle

might / might not have + past participle

could / couldn't have + past participle

may / may not have + past participle

can't have + past participle

For example:

You: Where was Julie last night?

David:

She must have forgotten about our date.

She might have worked late.

She could have taken the wrong bus.

She may have felt ill.

She can't have stayed at home.

Will / won't + have + past participle

Will and won't / will not + have + past participle are used for past certainty

For example:

The parcel **will have arrived** before now.

Should + have + past participle

Should + have + past participle can be used to make an assumption about something that has probably happened, if everything is as we expect.

The train **should have left** by now

Could

We can use could + infinitive to talk about a general possibility in the past

Prices **could be** high in the sixteenth century.

This is not used to talk about specific possibilities in the past (instead we use **could + have + past participle**):

He **could have been** working late

II. Adjectives

You can find the positive adjective and their most common antonyms.

Adjective	Antonym
Affectionate	indifferent
Altruistic	selfish, greedy
Amusing	boring
Assertive	bashful, shy
Brave	cowardly
Calm	agitated
Caring	evil
Charitable	mean, miserly
Charming	disgusting
Cheerful	cheerless
Clear	transparent, ironic
Clever	stupid
Cautious,	impulsive
Confident	trustful
Considerate	impolite
Cooperative	uncooperative
Hardworking	lazy
Well-balanced	moody

III. So do I, Neither do I

Agreeing and Disagreeing using So do I, Neither do I

1. To agree with a positive statement:

We use so + auxiliary/modal verb + pronoun:

"I like tea without sugar."

'So do I.'

2. To agree with a negative statement:

We use nor/neither + auxiliary/modal verb + pronoun:

"I don't like tea with sugar."

'Nor do I.' or 'Neither do I.'

3. To disagree with a positive statement:**We use pronoun + auxiliary/modal verb + not (-n't):****"I like tea without sugar."****'I don't.'****4. To disagree with a negative statement:****We use pronoun + auxiliary/modal verb:****"I don't like tea with sugar."****'I do.'****References**

1. By: Richard Flynn | Audience: All | Category: English Grammar | Topic: Adjectives and Adverbs First Published: 12th Dec. 2006 | Last Edited: 25th Jan. 2019.

2. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/probability>.

3. Vocabulary of English Language School Quino Villa Bruned