GRAMMAR MODAL VERBS







Hard hats must be worn on this site



Protective footwear must be worn on this site



No unauthorised persons allowed on this site



Danger Men at work



LET'S GET STARTED

NEED MUST CAN COULD SHALL WOULD MIGHT SHOULD

LET'S GET STARTED ...

- Workers must wear hard hats at all times.
- Modals only have one form!
- Don't use two modals at the same time!

LET'S GET STARTED ...

- can => to be able to + infinitive
- must => to have to + infinitive
- I might have to go to the meeting.
- The quality manager had to close the site.
- I won't be able to come to the meeting.

MUST

- Do we have to finish homework by tomorrow or Wednesday?
- We'll have to work hard to finish production.
- You don't have to help me I can do it on my own!
 need not / don't need to
- You mustn't access the construction site without a hard hat!
 you're not allowed to

CAN / COULD

- Can you increase production speed?
- Could you open the window, please?
- While I was living in China, I could understand the Chinese language without difficulties.
- I was able to speak to the manager today.

CAN / COULD

- In my last job I could change shifts whenever I wanted to.
- In my last job I was allowed to change shifts whenever I wanted to.
- We could increase production if everyone worked long hours.

SHOULD

• Mark left two hours ago, so he should be home soon.

 You should read the manual before working with the machine.

MAY / MIGHT

- Our competitor might develop a new product.
- He's not wearing PPE, he might hurt himself.
- We may not be able to deliver on time, I'm afraid.
- May I come in here?

SUMMARY

MUST COULD MAY MIGHT SHOULD