MODAL VERBS

Can, could, may, might, must, should, ought to, needn´t, would.

A los verbos modales se les llama también defectivos porque se rigen bajo unas reglas muy determinadas, estas son:

1.- No llevan -s en la tercera persona del singular del presente simple. He can do it
2.- No necesitan -do o -does para formar la negativa ni la interrogativa que ellos mismos hacen de auxiliares. Can you dance? No, I can´t.
3.- Van seguidos del infinitivo SIN to, excepto ought to. He must come home soon.

CARACTERÍSTICAS DE CADA UNO DE ELLOS:

CAN
1.- He can find any street in London. Ability
2.- You can take a taxi. Suggestion
3.- Can you take me to Victoria Station? Request (petición)

BE ABLE TO: He was able to find any street in London. Ability. BE ABLE TO lo utilizamos en los tiempos que le faltan a CAN, ya que se puede conjugar en pasado, futuro etc Will you be able to do it before six o´clock? ¿Podrás hacerlo antes de las 6?
Recuerda BE ABLE TO y HAVE TO se consideran SEMI MODALES ya que se pueden conjugar como verbos normales pero tienen características de modales también.

CAN´T. - That story can´t be true. Certainty that something is impossible

COULD
1.- I could play tennis when I was younger. Ability in the past
2.- Could you take me to Victoria Station? Request
3.- You could take a taxi. Suggestion

MAY
1.- It may be quicker to travel by train. Possibility (puede que..)
2.- May I come in? Formal request

MIGHT
It might be quicker to travel by train. Possibility (podría.....)

MUST
1.- I must go to the dentist. Moral Obligation (It´s good for me)
2.- Look at the snow. It must be cold outside. Certainty that something is true

MUSTN´T
You mustn´t drive without a licence. Prohibition

HAVE TO
You have to go to the dentist. Obligation (somebody makes you do it) or it´s a rule.
DON´T HAVE TO
You don´t have to call a taxi. Lack of obligation

NEEDN´T
You needn´t have a university degree. Lack of obligation

SHOULD
You should drive more carefully Advice (more frequently used)

ought to
You ought to drive more carefully Advice ( hardly used in negative and interrogative)

WOULD
Would you mind waiting a moment? Request

Would you mind waiting a moment? Invitation

MODAL + HAVE +P.P ( PERFECT INFINITIVE)

MUST HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE:
The driver must have lost his way A certainty or logical conclusion about an event in the past. (debía haberse perdido)

MIGHT / MAY HAVE +P.P.
She might / may have bought a new car. A guess about something which happened in the past. (puede que se haya comprado..)

COULD HAVE +P.P.
You could have avoided that accident. The ability to do something in the past, but which in the end was not done.(pudo haber evitado..)

COULDN´T HAVE + P.P.
He couldn´t have known about the problem. A certainty that something did not happen(.no podía haber sabido..)

SHOULD HAVE+P.P.
1.- He should have listened to me. Advice which was not followed in the past.(debiería haberme escuchado)
2.-They should have won the competition. Expectations which were not fulfilled in the past.

SHOULDN´T HAVE+ P.P.
You shouldn´t have gone on foot. Criticism that was given after an event.