

# **ANOMALOUS/MODAL VERBS**

## **The Addams Family of Verbs**

She **CAN** fly an aeroplane. [**physical/mental capacity/ability = poder**]

She **COULD** fly an aeroplane.

She **WILL BE ABLE TO** fly an aeroplane.

She **CAN'T/CANNOT** fly an aeroplane.

She **COULDN'T/COULD NOT** fly an aeroplane.

She **WON'T BE ABLE TO** fly an aeroplane.

She **IS(N'T) BEING ABLE TO** fly an aeroplane.

**CAN'T** she fly an aeroplane?

You **MAY** write in pen. [permission = poder]

The star **MAY** appear. [possibility/probability = poder]

You **MIGHT** write in pen.

You **WILL BE PERMITTED/ALLOWED TO** write in pen.

It **WILL BE POSSIBLE** for the star **TO** appear.

You **MAY NOT** write in pen.

You **MIGHTN'T/MIGHT NOT** write in pen.

You **WON'T BE PERMITTED/ALLOWED TO** write in pen.

You **ARE BEING PERMITTED/ALLOWED TO** write in pen.

**MAY** you **NOT** write in pen?

I **MUST** / **HAVE TO** / **NEED** change the cheque. [**duty; obligation; necessity = dever; ter de; precisar**]

✗ **HAD TO** ✗

✗ **WILL HAVE TO** ✗

I **MUSTN'T** / **MUST NOT** change the cheque. [**prohibition =estar proibido de; é proibido que**]

I **DON'T HAVE TO** / **NEEDN'T** / **NEED NOT** change the cheque [**no duty; no obligation; no necessity**].

**MUST** I / **DO** I **HAVE TO** / **NEED** I change the cheque?

**DON'T** I **HAVE TO** / **NEEDN'T** I change the cheque?

The class is very empty. The students **MUST** be/have arrived late.  
[**logical conclusion; deduction**]

He **SHOULD** / **OUGHT TO** study more.. [strong advice; logical conclusion; moral obligation = deveria]

He **SHOULDN'T** / **OUGHTN'T TO** study more.

**SHOULD** he / **OUGHT** he **TO** study more?

We **WOULD RATHER** do the exercises. [preference = preferir]

We **HAD BETTER** do the exercises. [friendly advice; recommendation = seria / é melhor].

We **WOULD RATHER NOT** do the exercises.

We **HAD BETTER NOT** do the exercises.

**WOULD** we **RATHER (NOT)** do the exercises?

**HAD** we **BETTER (NOT)** do the exercises?.

You **USED TO** cycle at night. [past habit = costumava]

You **ARE/GET USED/ACOSTUMED TO** cycling at night. [present habit = estar acostumado a]

You **DIDN'T USE TO** / **USEDN'T TO** cycle at night.

You **AREN'T/DON'T GET USED/ACOSTUMED TO** cycling at night.

**DID** you **USE TO** / **USED** you **TO** cycle at night?

**ARE** you **/DO** you **GET USED/ACOSTUMED TO** cycling at night?

## SPECIAL CASES

**MAY** the best win! [**desire; hope**]

It **CAN'T** be my student. [**surprise**]

She **IS TO** catch the next flight. [**emergency necessity**]

She **IS SUPPOSED TO** catch the next flight. [**light duty**]

How **DARE** you speak such broken English? [**indignation**]

How do you **DARE (to)** speak such broken English?  
[**challenge**]