

## Week II

# Modal verbs

**CAN** is used to express:

- ability or lack of ability

She can speak English fluently. I cannot dance.

- permission

Can I speak to you?

- possibility

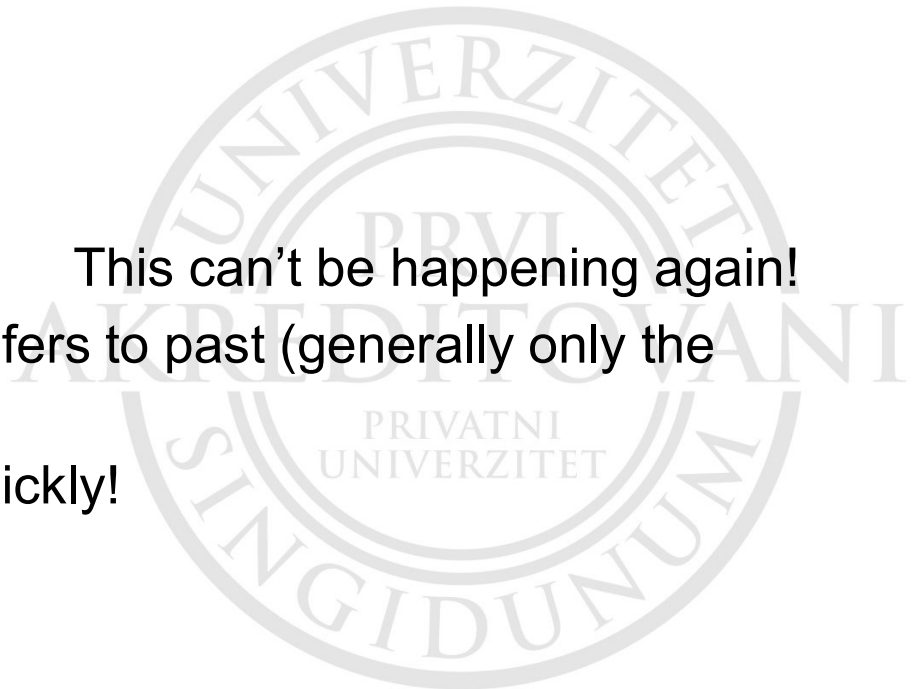
The problem can be solved.

- surprise or disbelief

It just can't be raining again!      This can't be happening again!

- CAN + PERFECT INFINITIVE – refers to past (generally only the negative form is used)

You can't have finished so quickly!



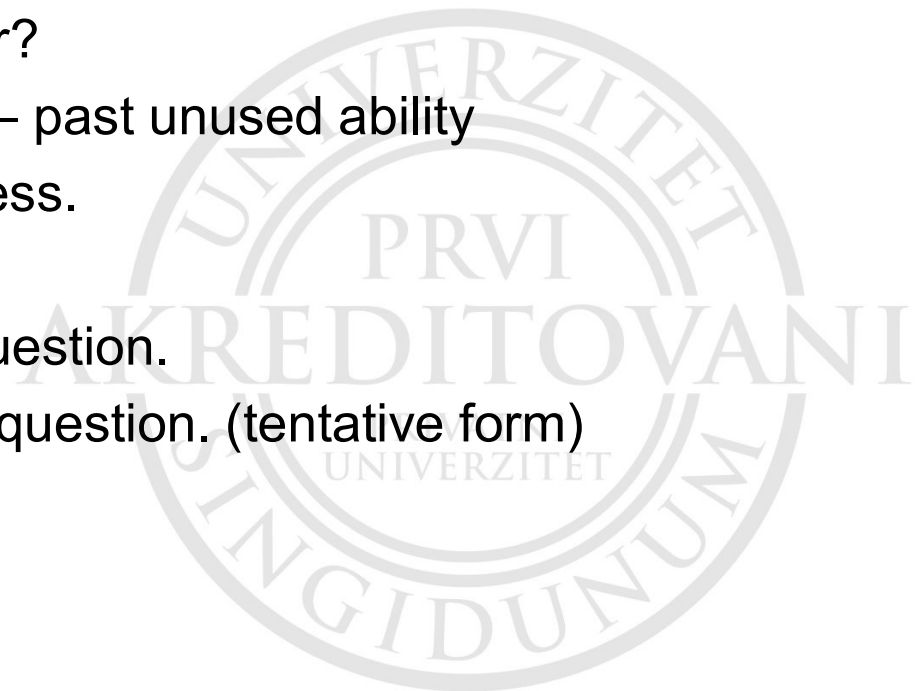
## Modal verbs

**COULD** is used to express:

- past ability/lack of ability  
He could play basketball better than anyone.  
I couldn't pass my exam since I wasn't studying enough.
- permission  
Could I leave the class earlier?
- **COULD + PERFECT INFINITIVE** – past unused ability  
I could have become an actress.

He can give you the answer to that question.

He could give you the answer to that question. (tentative form)



## Modal verbs

**SHOULD** is used to express:

- to talk about future plans/intentions  
My sister is going to study marketing.
- to make predictions based on evidence  
Look out! You're going to trip over that toy.



## Modal verbs

**MAY (probability/possibility):** It may rain tomorrow.

**MAY (permission):** May I leave the table?

**MIGHT (probability/possibility):** It might rain tomorrow.

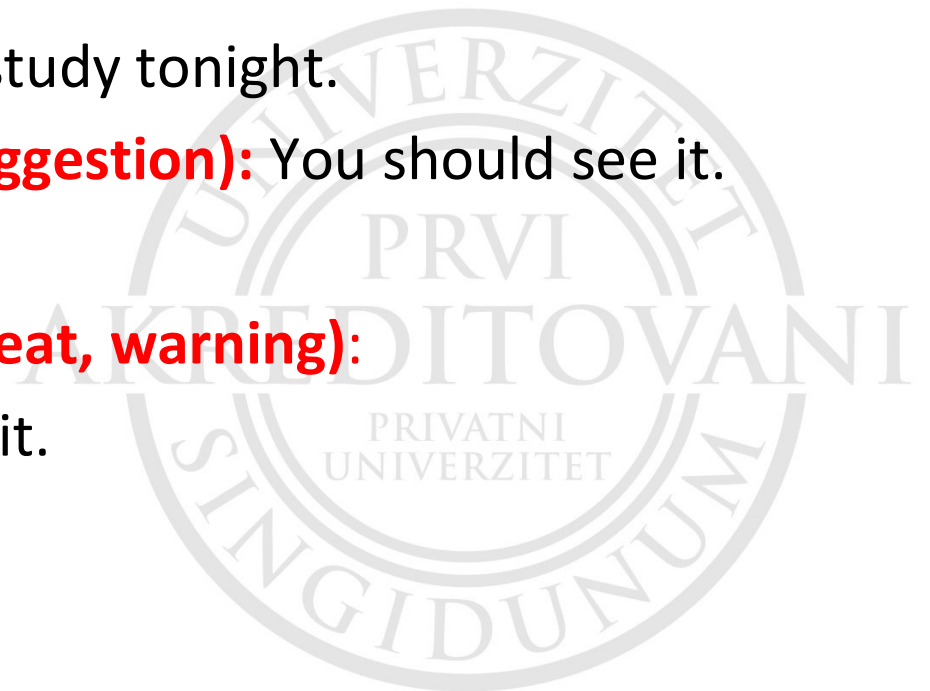
**MUST (obligation):** You must leave before the clock strikes twelve.

**HAVE TO (obligation):** I have to study tonight.

**SHOULD/UGHT TO (advice/suggestion):** You should see it.  
It's excellent.

**HAD BETTER (strong advice, threat, warning):**

You'd better ask a doctor about it.



## Modal verbs + have + past participle

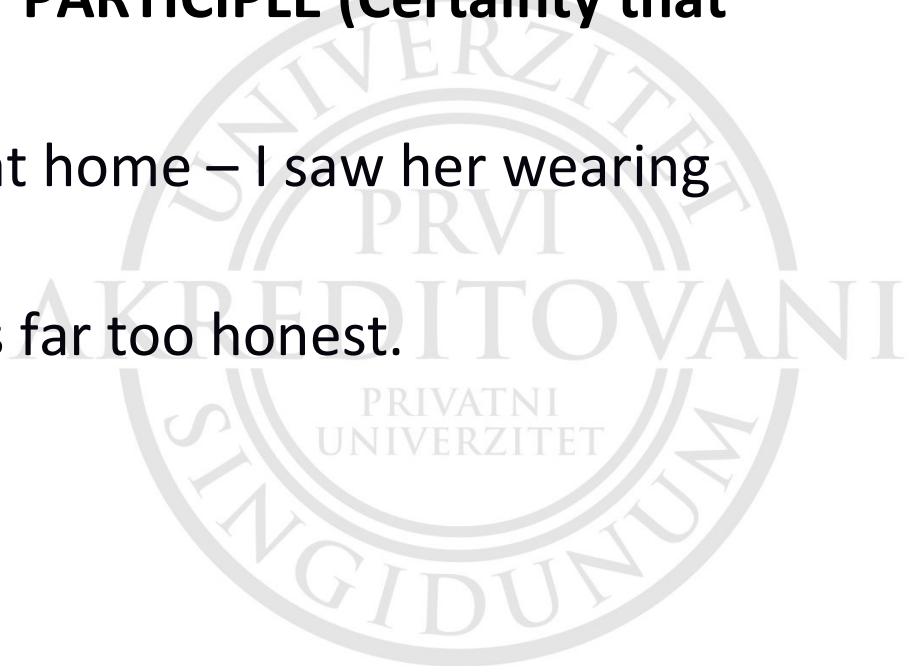
### **MUST HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (Certainty about the past):**

I am so sorry that you broke your leg. It must have been painful.

### **CAN'T/COULDN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (Certainty that sth didn't happen):**

She can't have left her glasses at home – I saw her wearing them on the bus.

She couldn't have done it, she's far too honest.



## **MAY, MIGHT, COULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (Possibility about the past):**

She is really late. She may have overslept.

## **MAY NOT HAVE, MIGHT NOT HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE negative:**

He hasn't called me. He might not have finished the project yet.

## **SHOULD/UGHT TO + PAST PARTICIPLE (Regret about sth that didn't happen in the past):**

I should have bought this dress.



**SHOULDN'T/UGHT NOT TO HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE  
(Regret about sth that happened in the past):**

I shouldn't have told you that. It was supposed to be a secret.

**NEEDN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (Absence of necessity in  
the past):**

You needn't have bought me flowers. (It wasn't necessary but you did)



## ESP – Forecasting disaster

Key vocabulary:

Go bust - go bankrupt

Discontinuities

Stock price – share price

Resilient – able to recover quickly

Earnings shortfalls – lower than expected profits

Prods - encourages

Layoffs - redundancies

Retrenchments – economies, reductions

In sync – correspond with each other

Cross – section = typical sample

Source Guy Brook-Hart, *Business Benchmark, Student's Book*  
Ian Wood, *PASS Cambridge BEC Higher Workbook*



# ESP

## Vocabulary

- 1 Complete the accounts of Presto Bearings, a company which supplies machine parts, using the words/phrases in the box.**

debtors    dividends    equipment  
 equity    liabilities    loss    pre-tax profits  
 profit and loss for the period    turnover

- 2 Find words in the accounts on the right which mean the following.**
- Buildings and land used by a company
  - Loss of value of an asset such as machinery over a number of years
  - Money borrowed from a bank
  - Part of a company's profit which is not distributed to shareholders as dividends
  - Things belonging to a company which have a value
  - Supply of components or raw materials kept by a company to be used in manufacturing their products
  - The value a company has in addition to the value of its assets, e.g. from its reputation

Profit and 1 <i>loss</i> account		Balance sheet	
	€m		€m
2 .....	(sales) 840	Cash in bank	140
Cost of sales	(360)	Stock	22
Depreciation	(110)	<b>7</b> .....	55
Operating cost	(100)	<b>Total current assets</b>	217
Operating profit	270	Premises	2,450
Interest payable	(35)	<b>8</b> .....	480
<b>3</b> .....	235	<b>Total fixed assets</b>	2,930
Tax	58	Goodwill	320
Profit after tax /net profit	177	<b>Total assets</b>	3,467
<b>4</b> .....	(100)	Creditors	(27)
<b>5</b> .....	77	Overdraft	(420)
Retained earnings	89	<b>Total current liabilities</b>	(447)
Shareholders' <b>6</b> .....	166	<b>9</b> .....	(447)
		<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>	3,020

## Talking point

Discuss the following questions in small groups.

- What should companies take into account when deciding what dividend to pay shareholders?