



▣ LIBRO DE APOYO – ZERO DE BACHILLERATO

Modal Verbs for Speculation & Obligation – Formal vs. Informal Use

★ MODAL VERBS FOR SPECULATION (Past)

Los modales de **especulación** expresan suposiciones sobre algo que pasó.

◇ 1. Must have + past participle

Uso: estar casi seguro sobre un hecho en el pasado. (90–100% seguro)

Structure:

Subject + must have + past participle (V3)

Examples:

- *She **must have forgotten** the meeting.*
(Debe haber olvidado la reunión.)
 - *They **must have arrived** early.*
(Deben haber llegado temprano.)
-

◇ 2. Might have + past participle

Uso: posibilidad, pero no certeza. (40–60%)

Structure:

Subject + might have + V3

Examples:

- *He **might have left** already.*
(Puede que ya se haya ido.)
 - *They **might have misunderstood** the instructions.*
(Puede que hayan entendido mal las instrucciones.)
-

◇ 3. Should have + past participle

Uso: expresar arrepentimiento o crítica sobre el pasado.

Significa “deberías haber” o “tendrían que haber”.

Structure:

Subject + should have + V3

Examples:

- *You **should have studied** more.*
(Debiste haber estudiado más.)



- They **should have called** us earlier.
(Debieron habernos llamado antes.)

◇ 4. Summary Chart (cuadro resumen)

Modal	Uso	Traducción	Ejemplo
must have	certeza alta	"debe haber..."	She must have left early.
might have	posibilidad	"puede que haya..."	He might have lost the key.
should have	crítica/arrepentimiento	"debió haber..."	You should have told me.

🌀 Actividad opcional

Completa las frases (elegir entre must have / might have / should have)

- She ___ forgotten her phone. (estás seguro que esto ocurrió)
- They ___ finished the project earlier. (no estás seguro de que esto ocurrió)

★ MODAL VERBS FOR OBLIGATION (Present & Past)

Los modales también expresan **obligación**, especialmente en contextos académicos o laborales.

◇ 1. Must

Uso: obligación fuerte, reglas personales o institucionales.

Structure:

Subject + must + base verb

Examples:

- *Students **must** wear uniforms.*
- *You **must** be on time.*

◇ 2. Have to

Uso: obligación externa (alguien más la establece).

Equivalente en español: "tener que".

Structure:

Subject + have to + base verb



Examples:

- We **have to** follow the procedure.
- She **has to** attend the meeting.

◇ **3. Should**

Uso: recomendación u obligación suave.

Structure:

Subject + should + base verb

Examples:

- You **should** check your email daily.
- Employees **should** respect deadlines.

◇ **4. Summary Chart: Obligation**

Modal	Fuerza	Uso
must	muy fuerte	reglas estrictas, normas
have to	fuerte	obligación externa
should	suave	recomendación

🔗 **Actividad opcional**

Marca si la obligación es fuerte o suave:

- You must submit the report today.
- Students should participate.
- She has to attend the interview.



★ FORMAL VS INFORMAL USE OF MODAL VERBS

Los modales mantienen su significado, pero **su uso cambia según el registro** (formal vs. informal).

◇ 1. Uso informal

Se usa entre amigos, familiares, conversaciones casuales.

Características:

- Contracciones
- Lenguaje directo
- Oraciones más cortas

Examples:

- *You **should have** called me!* → informal, emocional
 - *He **might have** dropped it.*
 - *You **must** be tired.*
-

◇ 2. Uso formal

Se usa en correos académicos, informes, entrevistas, documentos oficiales.

Características:

- No contracciones
- Tono educado y objetivo
- Expresiones más académicas

Examples:

- *The applicant **should have submitted** the documents earlier.*
 - *The team **must have completed** the task by now.*
 - *The system **might have failed** due to an internal error.*
-



◇ 3. Formal vs. Informal Chart

A. For Speculation

Modal	Informal Example	Formal Example
must have	He must've left early.	He must have departed earlier.
might have	She might've forgotten.	She might have failed to remember.
should have	You should've told me.	You should have informed me.

B. For Obligation

Modal	Informal	Formal
must	You must be careful.	Employees must follow the protocol.
have to	I have to go now.	Candidates have to meet all requirements.
should	You should rest.	Students should acknowledge the guidelines.

◇ 4. Key Notes

- ✓ En lenguaje formal **no uses contracciones**.
- ✓ Usa modales para suavizar peticiones: "You should..." vs "You must..."
- ✓ En informes académicos, usa estructuras completas y precisas.

🔄 Actividad opcional

Convierte de informal a formal:

1. "You should've sent it already."
2. "He might've made a mistake."
3. "You must be there by 8."

★ INTEGRATED PRACTICE

Combinando: modales + especulación + obligación + formal/informal.

◇ 1. Guided Writing Task (Modelo)

Formal email:

Subject: Missing Documentation

Dear applicant,

*The required documents **should have been submitted** last Friday. You **must** complete the*



process by tomorrow. Some files **might have been uploaded** incorrectly. Please check the system and make the necessary updates.

Sincerely,
Admissions Office

◇ **2. Informal text message:**

Hey! You **should've called** me! You **must** be super busy. Anyway, you **might've forgotten** about the meeting. No worries.

◇ **3. Speaking prompts**

- I think the student must have...
- The applicant should have...
- In formal situations, we use...
- In informal situations, we usually...