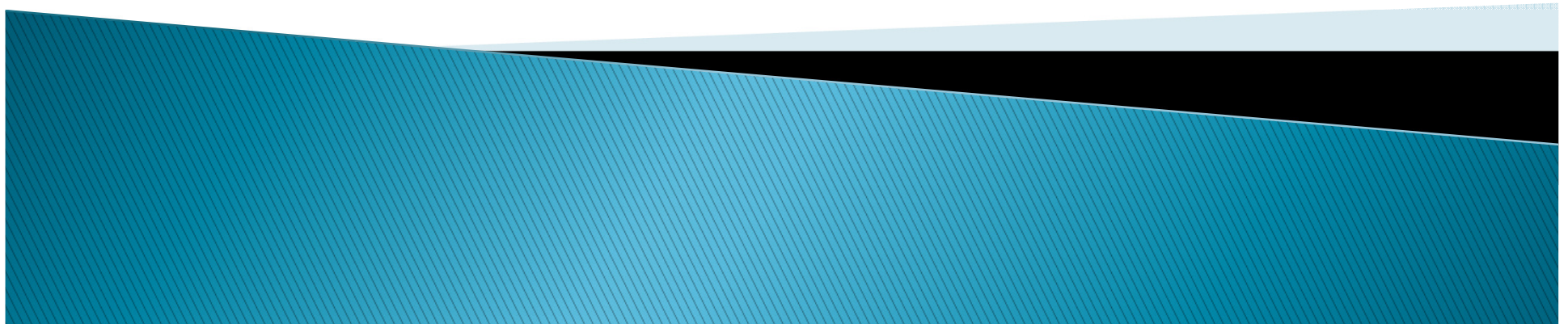


MODAL VERBS



HERE'S A LIST OF THE MODAL VERBS IN ENGLISH:

can

could

may

might

will

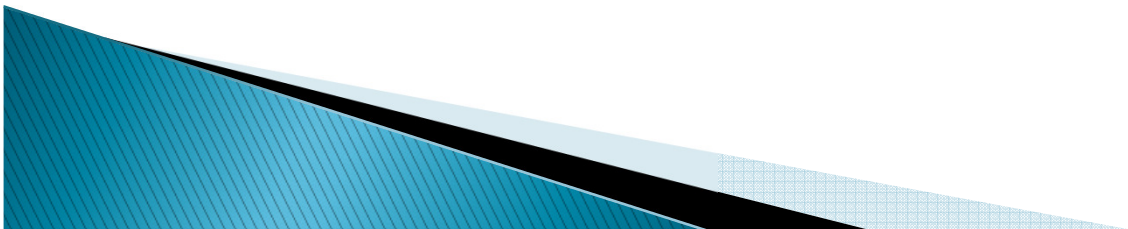
would

must

shall

should

ought to

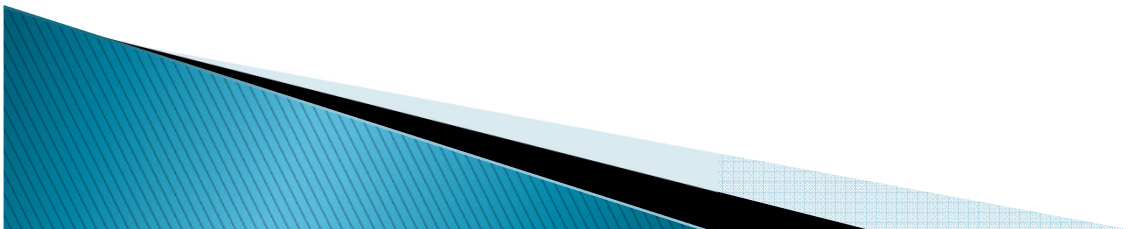


PROBABILITY:

- ▶ First, they can be used when we want to say how sure we are that something happened / is happening / will happen. We often call these 'modals of deduction' or 'speculation' or 'certainty' or 'probability'.

For example:

- ▶ It's snowing, so it must be very cold outside.
- ▶ I don't know where John is. He could have missed the train.
- ▶ This bill can't be right. £200 for two cups of coffee!

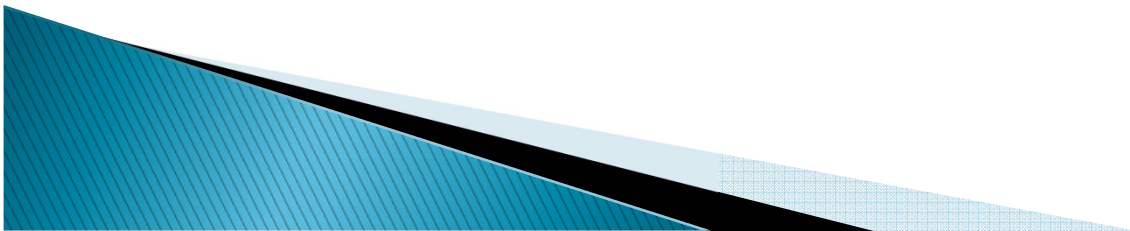


ABILITY

- ▶ We use 'can' and 'could' to talk about a skill or ability.

For example: She can speak six languages.

- ▶ My grandfather could play golf very well
- ▶ I can't drive

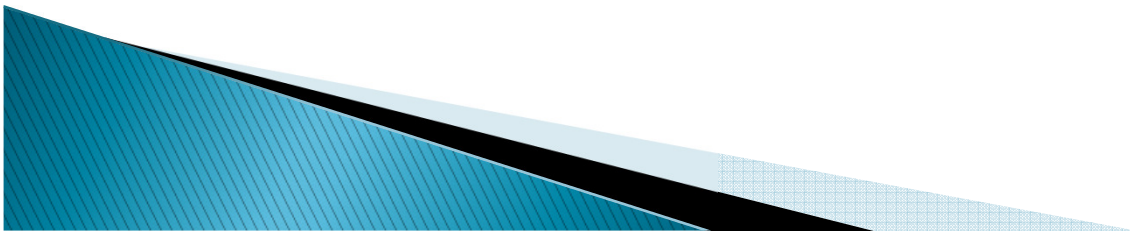


OBLIGATION AND ADVICE

- ▶ We can use verbs such as 'must' or 'should' to say when something is necessary or unnecessary, or to give advice.

For example: Children must do their homework.

- ▶ We have to wear a uniform at work.
- ▶ You should stop smoking.

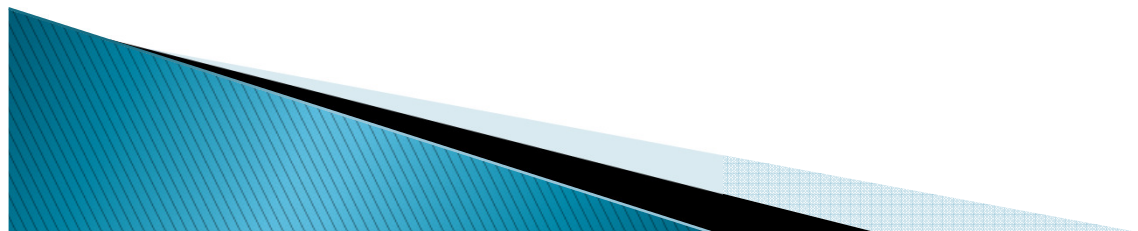


PERMISSION

- ▶ We can use verbs such as 'can', 'could' and 'may' to ask for and give permission. We also use modal verbs to say something is not allowed.

For example: Could I leave early today, please?

- ▶ You may not use the car tonight.
- ▶ Can we swim in the lake?



HABITS

- ▶ We can use 'will' and 'would' to talk about habits or things we usually do, or did in the past.

For example: When I lived in Italy, we would often eat in the restaurant next to my flat.

- ▶ John will always be late!

