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Learning Language: English

The verbal group A2

Forward

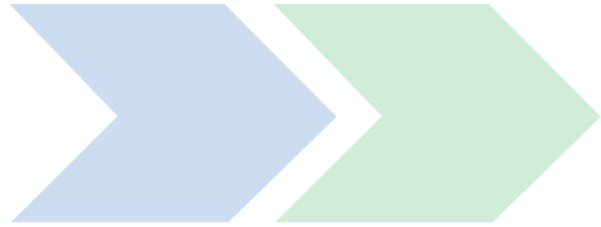
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The verbal group – A2 level

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The verbal group

Types of verbs

Phrasal verbs

- ➔ **Phrasal verbs** are **composite words** that consist of a **verb base** and one or several **prepositions** or **adverbs**. Widely employed in standard American English, phrasal verbs range from **everyday** and **literal** to **idiomatic** and **figurative**.
- ➔ Phrasal verbs have distinct meanings from the **verb bases** that form them. A single **verb base** may be used to form **several phrasal verbs**, each with one or more concise meanings.

A. Verb base + preposition

<p>➔ Phrasal verbs composed of a verb base and a preposition must be followed by a complement to take on meaning.</p>	<p>Example: (Verb base + preposition):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She's working on the report. <p>(Ordinary verb):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She's working late tonight. <p>(Verb base + preposition):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let's go over that last point. <p>(Ordinary verb):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let's go.
<p>➔ Examples of common verb base + preposition expressions include: to think about, to look over, to consist of, to take on, to go into, to pay back, to see to, to insist on, etc.</p> <p>Note: The verb base + preposition form may have gerund clauses or the relative pronoun what as a complement.</p>	<p>Example: We believe in making customers a priority. I went over what you sent me, and it's excellent.</p>

The verbal group – A2 level

A. Verb base + adverb

<p>➔ Unlike the verb base + preposition form, phrasal verbs consisting of a verb base and an adverb may or may not have a complement. The adverb may be placed before or after the complement.</p> <p>Note: Verb base + adverb expressions are often synonyms of ordinary verbs. In the examples below, the latter are shown in brackets.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prices went up considerably this year.• Shall we move on?• The product really took off with customers.• We have to get by with the resources we have.• I suggest we step back and look at the problem objectively. <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She came back (returned) from the meeting this afternoon.• If we all chip in (contribute), we can get this done ahead of schedule.• We've been held up (delayed).
<p>➔ When phrasal verbs have a complement, they can usually be split with a noun or a corresponding pronoun. In the following example, all three uses of the phrasal verb call off are correct.</p> <p>Note: When the complement is a pronoun, the adverb may only be placed after the pronoun. Also note that some verb base + adverb expressions have a gerund or relative pronoun such as that or what as a complement.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We had to call off the conference.• We had to call the conference off.• We had to call it off. <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They found out that the move would take place in June.
<p>➔ Examples of common verb base + adverb expressions include: break down, move in, go down, turn on/turn off, pull through, show up, set back, find out, stand out, etc.</p>	

Phrasal verbs – Exercise – Text transformation

Replace the word(s) in brackets with the corresponding demonstrative pronoun:

We'll send out (your packages) right away. In the meantime, you can print out (the status of your order) online. Look up (the shipment status page) online in order to track your order. After receipt, please fill out (the survey).



The verbal group – A2 level

Transitive and intransitive verbs

Verbs may also be classified as **transitive** or **intransitive**.

<p>➔ Transitive verbs: Transitive verbs take objects.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She's reading an article. • Give me some toast, please. • I love spring and summer.
<p>➔ Intransitive verbs: Intransitive verbs do not take objects. Common intransitive verbs include 'to smile,' 'to walk,' 'to come,' 'to fall,' 'to go,' and 'to happen.'</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Intransitive verbs may be modified by prepositional phrases that clarify their context or meaning.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are walking. • He always smiles. <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are walking down the street.
<p>➔ Some verbs may be used both transitively and intransitively.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The door opened. • Open the window.

Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Sentence practice

Answer the question as in the example:

Is Herbert going to call? (this evening)	He's calling this evening.
Is your sister going to come? (Thursday)	
Are we going to go to the beach? (in a few minutes)	
Is Frank going to play volleyball? (next time)	

Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Word order

winter, - I - when - in - the - love - it - Paris - drizzles.

The verbal group – A2 level

Impersonal verbs

➡ **Impersonal verbs**, whose subject must always be 'it,' are usually used to describe the weather. Some examples are 'to rain,' 'to snow,' 'to hail,' and 'to drizzle.'

Example:

- It **rained** all weekend.
- Sometimes it **snows** in April.

Note: Some **personal verbs** can be used as **impersonal verbs**. Such use changes the meanings of these verbs.

Example:

- I'm **getting** colder.
- It's **getting** colder.

Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Grammar practice

Give the preterite of the following verbs:

To talk	Talked
To rain	
To drizzle	
To snow	
To drive	
To try	
To go	

Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's starting to _____ again!

Do you _____ your umbrella? I always _____ mine!

Everybody is always _____ about the weather.

_____ the weather forecasters! Yes, _____ you at the tennis club!

see - rain - forget - have - call - talking

Verbal prefixes

The main postpositions

The main postpositions in American English are:

➔ Away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estrangement: to go away • disappearance: to sweep away • an energetic action: to cry away
➔ Back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • backward movement: to stand back • return to the point of departure: to bring back • reply, revenge: to answer back, to shout back • reserved attitude: to hold back
➔ Down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • downward movement: to go down • writing: to write down • decrease: to turn down
➔ In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inward movement: to get in • inside (without movement): to be in • visit: to drop in
➔ Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • averting: to put off • departure: to go off, to take off • interruption: to turn off • complete achievement: to finish off
➔ On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact: to try on • movement: come on • continuation: to go on • start: to turn on, to switch on
➔ Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outward movement: to move out • outside (without movement): to eat out • extension: to stretch out • distribution: to give out • clarification, externalization: to find out to yell out • exhaustion: to run out of • suddenness: to break out

The verbal group – A2 level

➡ Over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• passage (from one person to another, from one country to another): to pass over• movement to return or unbalance to turn over• repetition: to say over• action done with care: to think over
➡ Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• upward movement: to climb up• increased volume: to speak up• total achievement: to eat up• continuation of a path: to go further up

The main postpositions – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

At _____ you've gotten _____ the first hurdle, the hardest one.

New York is out there waiting for you.

Your taxi takes you on a _____ trip _____ the city.

What is your _____ impression?

first - over - quick - last - around

The main postpositions – Exercise – Word order

coming - The - foreign - the - police - in - drugs - a - on - confiscated - vessel

Semi-auxiliaries

'Can': ability and likelihood

The auxiliary 'can' is used not only to express perception and the notion of knowledge, but also:

<p>➔ Ability 'Can' may also be replaced with to be able to.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As he has big muscles, he can carry heavy bags. (As he has big muscles, he is able to carry heavy bags.)
<p>➔ Likelihood</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can become really humid during the summer in the Amazon.

'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's nice _____ hear some live music once in a while.
 I didn't enjoy the last concert because I _____ see the stage.
 _____ you come to the jazz club tomorrow night, or do you have other plans? I'm not sure I
 _____, but I'll try.

Can - to be able to - couldn't - will be able to

'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Sentence practice

Answer the question as in the example:

Why is he going to the beach? (he can surf)	He's going to the beach so he can surf.
Why are you bringing the kids? (I can teach them to swim)	
Why is she taking the train? (she can work en route)	
Why are you putting lotion on him? (he will not get sunburned)	

'Should' and 'ought to': advice

<p>➔ To give advice, the auxiliary 'should' or 'ought to' + an infinitive is used. 'Ought to' suggests an external or moral constraint.</p> <p>Note: 'Shouldn't' is the usual form in negations.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should go to the butcher's first. You ought to apologize to her! <p>Example: You shouldn't drive too fast!</p>
<p>➔ 'Should' or 'ought to' + 'have' + a past participle is used to express a regret or reproach.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should have gone to the mountains. They ought to have invited her.
<p>➔ Should can be used to express obligation. This usage is common in legal texts and official rules.</p> <p>Note: In the above examples, should conveys rules and commands rather than suggestions or advice.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments should be made on time and in full. Employees should provide valid justification for absences. You should complete the report as soon as possible.

➔ Also note that the negative form of **should** is **should not** or **shouldn't**.

'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

He (to send)	He should send
they (to work)	
she (to buy)	
I (to have)	
you (to start)	
we (to consider)	
he (to make)	

The verbal group – A2 level

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to'

➤ The auxiliary can , in the infinitive form , is to be able to .	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">It's great to be able to speak many languages.
➤ The future of the auxiliary can is will be able to .	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Don't worry. I'll (will) be able to pick you up.
➤ The preterite of the auxiliary can is could	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">He could be very kind sometimes.I couldn't hear anything because of the music.

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – The right word

I don't think I'll _____ come to your party.

would - can - could - should - be able to

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's nice _____ hear some live music once in a while.

I didn't enjoy the last concert because I _____ see the stage.

_____ you come to the jazz club tomorrow night, or do you have other plans?

I'm not sure I _____, but I'll try.

couldn't - will be able to - Can - to be able to

Strong probability using 'must'

<p>➔ 'Must' may express strong probability or near certainty.</p> <p>Note: When 'must' is used to express strong probability, its negative form is 'cannot.'</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must be Mr. Land. Your car must be worn out! <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He can't be ill. That can't be easy.
<p>➔ 'Must' in this sense has no future: 'probably' or, alternatively, subject + 'to be sure' + a clause referring to the future is used instead. In the present perfect, 'must' + 'have' + past participle is used.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will probably go to bed. I'm sure I'll come back. Somebody must have picked my pocket in town yesterday.
<p>➔ 'Be,' 'have,' verbs introducing predicates or describing mental operations, and, generally, progressive forms may follow 'must.'</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He must be wondering where I am.

Strong probability using 'must' – Exercise – The right word

You look tired! It _____ have been a long trip!

could - might - may - must - can – would

Strong probability using 'must' – Exercise – Sentence practice

Give the opposite, as in the example:

You must be Mr. Brown.	You can't be Mr. Brown.
This must be your car.	
That must be her station wagon.	
That must be Mario Andretti over there.	

The verbal group – A2 level

'May' - 'Might'

The helping auxiliaries **may** and **might** are used to express a **possibility**.

A - Form

<p>➔ One uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may/might + infinitive without to when talking about the present or the future. • may/might + be + -ing when talking about the present or the future. • may/might + have + past participle when talking about the past. 	
<p>➔ The negative is formed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may + not might + not 	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That may not be true. • They might not know about this.
<p>➔ In the interrogative form, to be likely to, is there a possibility and do you think are used instead of might and may.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they likely to be back soon? • Is there a possibility he'll go?

B - Use

<p>➔ May expresses a possibility more certain than might.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strong possibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She may be late because she has a lot to do. • Be quiet! He may be sleeping. ❖ Large uncertainty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I might come tonight, but I'm not sure. • I haven't got a towel. John might have taken several.
<p>➔ May is used as well when asking for (and giving) permission with politeness.</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May I borrow your pen?

The verbal group – A2 level

<p>Note: Might is used often in the place of may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in everyday speech (except that might expresses a doubt greater than may). • in indirect style when the sentence is in the past (to keep with the sequence of the tenses). 	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said he might come tomorrow.
<p>➔ Might is used as well for criticisms or suggestions.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You might (as well) take your coat. It's cold outside. • You might have asked the technician. He knows a lot.

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – The right word

_____ I help you?

May - Might - Mayn't - Mightn't

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

Maybe I'll take out a loan.	I might take out a loan.
Maybe the payments will be high.	
Maybe I'll spend my savings.	
Maybe I'll need to commute.	

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – Word order

there - It will be - and - cloudy - a few - might be - showers.

'Can' and verbs of perception

- The **verbs of perception** ('to see,' 'to hear,' 'to feel,' 'to understand'...) can be used **with** or **without** the auxiliary **can**. The auxiliary **do** is used in questions and in the negative form.

Example:

- I **can see** a nice bird over there.
- **Do you hear** a strange noise?
- I **don't feel** the cold.

'Can' and verbs of perception – Exercise – Word order

need - understand - so - don't - why - we - I - much



The verbal group – A2 level

'Must' - 'Have to'

The auxiliaries **must** and **have to** express a **need** or an **obligation**.

➔ Construction of must

The auxiliary **must** is conjugated in the same way for all persons: it **does not** take an **-s** in the 3rd person singular.

Must is followed by the **infinitive without to**.

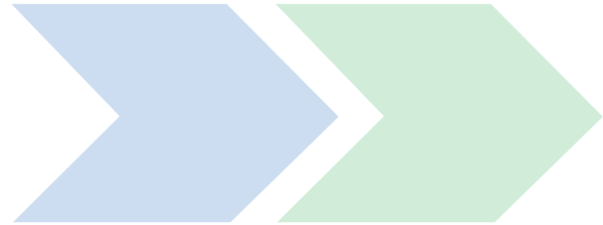
Must is only used in the **simple present**.

Example: You **must wash** your hands before eating.

Note: With **must**, questions and negations are formed without 'do.'

Example:

- **Must** we **bring** sleeping bags?
- You **mustn't open** the door to anyone.



'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

I must (to check in)	I must check in
He must (to hurry)	
We must (to forget)	
She must (to leave)	
You must (to pay)	
They must (to depart)	
It must (to be)	

'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Word order

cold - had - a - spell - in - There - and - wear - was - we - July - to - sweaters.

The verbal group – A2 level

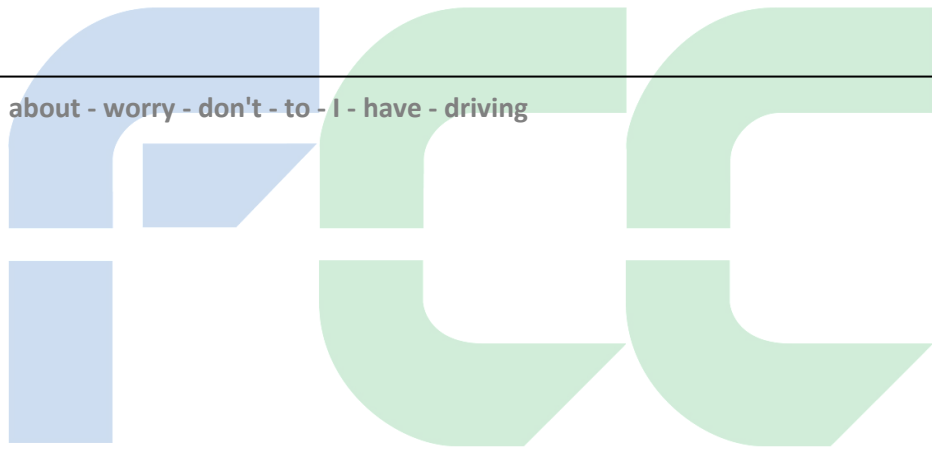
Absence of necessity

To express **absence of necessity**, the following forms are used:

<p>➔ 'Needn't' + infinitive without 'to' expresses the speaker's opinion, usually in the present.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You needn't bring your bike. It's not that far.
<p>➔ 'Don't/doesn't need to' + infinitive without 'to' may be used in all tenses and suggests neutrality.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You don't need to bring your bike,• They'll lend you one.• I didn't need to come.
<p>➔ 'Don't/doesn't have to' + infinitive without 'to' may be used in all tenses to express opinions and facts.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You don't have to go to any trouble.• I won't have to have X-rays, will I?

Absence of necessity – Exercise – Word order

about - worry - don't - to - I - have - driving



Other notions

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done'

<p>➔ The pattern 'to have or make + direct object + infinitive without to' means 'to cause someone to do something'. This pattern has an active meaning.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had him service my car. • He made me laugh so much! • She had her daughter tidy up her room.
<p>➔ The pattern 'to have + direct object + past participle' means 'to cause something to be done'. This pattern has a passive meaning.</p> <p>Note: In this sense, to have is conjugated with the auxiliary do.</p>	<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had his car repaired. • She had her tooth pulled out by her dentist. <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you have your coat cleaned?

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done' – Exercise – The right word

I _____ the house painted by professionals.

to have - is - had - has

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done' – Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

Our car is being repaired.	We're having our car repaired.
My brakes are being checked.	
Her oil is being changed.	
Their tank is being filled.	

The verbal group - Solutions

Types of verbs – Solution(s)

Phrasal verbs – Solution(s)

Phrasal verbs – Exercise – Text transformation

Replace the word(s) in brackets with the corresponding demonstrative pronoun:

We'll send out (your packages) right away. In the meantime, you can print out (the status of your order) online. Look up (the shipment status page) online in order to track your order. After receipt, please fill out (the survey).

We'll send them out right away. In the meantime, you can print it out online. Look it up online in order to track your order. After receipt, please fill it out.

.....



The verbal group – A2 level

Transitive and intransitive verbs – Solution(s)

Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Sentence practice

Answer the question as in the example:

Is Herbert going to call? (this evening)	He's calling this evening.
Is your sister going to come? (Thursday)	She's coming Thursday. She is coming Thursday. My sister's coming Thursday. My sister is coming Thursday. Our sister's coming Thursday. Our sister is coming Thursday. She's coming on Thursday. She is coming on Thursday. My sister's coming on Thursday. My sister is coming on Thursday. Our sister's coming on Thursday. Our sister is coming on Thursday.
Are we going to go to the beach? (in a few minutes)	We're going in a few minutes. We are going in a few minutes. We're going to the beach in a few minutes. We are going to the beach in a few minutes.
Is Frank going to play volleyball? (next time)	He's playing next time. He is playing next time. He's playing volleyball next time. He is playing volleyball next time. Frank is playing next time. Frank is playing volleyball next time. Frank's playing next time. Frank's playing volleyball next time.

Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Word order

I love Paris in the winter, when it drizzles.

.....

Impersonal verbs – Solution(s)

Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Grammar practice

Give the preterite of the following verbs:

To talk	Talked
To rain	rained
To drizzle	drizzled
To snow	snowed
To drive	drove
To try	tried
To go	went



Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's starting to **rain** again!
Do you **have** your umbrella?
I always **forget** mine!
Everybody is always **talking** about the weather.
Call the weather forecasters! Yes, **see** you at the tennis club!

Verbal prefixes – Solution(s)

The main postpositions – Solution(s)

The main postpositions – Exercise– Fill in the blanks

At **last** you've gotten **over** the first hurdle, the hardest one.
New York is out there waiting for you.
Your taxi takes you on a **quick** trip **around** the city. What is your **first** impression?

The main postpositions – Exercise – Word order

The police confiscated the drugs coming in on a foreign vessel.

.....

Semi-auxiliaries – Solution(s)

'Can': ability and likelihood – Solution(s)

'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's nice **to be able to** hear some live music once in a while.

I didn't enjoy the last concert because I **couldn't** see the stage.

Can you come to the jazz club tomorrow night, or do you have other plans? I'm not sure I **will be able to** , but I'll try.

'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Sentence practice

Answer the question as in the example:

Why is he going to the beach? (he can surf)	He's going to the beach so he can surf.
Why are you bringing the kids? (I can teach them to swim)	I'm bringing the kids so I can teach them to swim. I am bringing the kids so I can teach them to swim.
Why is she taking the train? (she can work en route)	She's taking the train so she can work en route. She is taking the train so she can work en route.
Why are you putting lotion on him? (he will not get sunburned)	I'm putting lotion on him so he won't get sunburned. I am putting lotion on him so he won't get sunburned. I'm putting lotion on him so he will not get sunburned. I am putting lotion on him so he will not get sunburned.

.....

'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Solution(s)

'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

He (to send)	He should send
they (to work)	They should work
she (to buy)	She should buy
I (to have)	I should have
you (to start)	You should start
we (to consider)	We should consider
he (to make)	He should make

.....

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Solution(s)

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – The right word

I don't think I'll **be able to** come to your party.

'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

It's nice **to be able to** hear some live music once in a while.

I didn't enjoy the last concert because I **couldn't** see the stage.

Can you come to the jazz club tomorrow night, or do you have other plans? I'm not sure I **will be able to** , but I'll try.

.....

Strong probability using 'must' – Solution(s)

Strong probability using 'must' – Exercise – The right word

You look tired! It **must** have been a long trip!

The verbal group – A2 level

Strong probability using 'must' – Exercise – Sentence practice

Give the opposite, as in the example:

You must be Mr. Brown.	You can't be Mr. Brown.
This must be your car.	This can't be your car. This cannot be your car.
That must be her station wagon.	That can't be her station wagon. That cannot be her station wagon.
That must be Mario Andretti over there.	That can't be Mario Andretti over there. That cannot be Mario Andretti over there.

'May' - 'Might' – Solution(s)

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – The right word

May I help you?

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

Maybe I'll take out a loan.	I might take out a loan.
Maybe the payments will be high.	The payments might be high. The payments may be high.
Maybe I'll spend my savings.	I might spend my savings. I may spend my savings.
Maybe I'll need to commute.	I might need to commute. I may need to commute.

'May' - 'Might' - Exercises – Exercise – Word order

It will be cloudy and there might be a few showers.

.....

'Can' and verbs of perception – Solution(s)

'Can' and verbs of perception – Exercise – Word order

I don't understand why we need so much.

.....

'Must' - 'Have to' – Solution(s)

'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

I must (to check in)	I must check in
He must (to hurry)	He must hurry
We must (to forget)	We must forget
She must (to leave)	She must leave
You must (to pay)	You must pay
They must (to depart)	They must depart
It must (to be)	It must be

'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Word order

There was a cold spell in July and we had to wear sweaters.

.....

Absence of necessity – Solution(s)

Absence of necessity – Exercise – Word order

I don't have to worry about driving.

.....

Other notions – Solution(s)

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done' – Solution(s)

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done' – Exercise – The right word

I **had** the house painted by professionals.

'To make sb do sth' - 'To have sth done' – Exercise – Sentence practice

Rewrite as in the example:

Our car is being repaired.	We're having our car repaired.
My brakes are being checked.	I'm having my brakes checked. I am having my brakes checked.
Her oil is being changed.	She's having her oil changed. She is having her oil changed.
Their tank is being filled.	They're having their tank filled. They are having their tank filled.

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ENGLISH

SPANISH

FRENCH

GERMAN

ITALIAN

DUTCH

