

AUXILIARY	USES	PRESENT/FUTURE	PAST
<i>be going to</i>	(1) 100% certainty (prediction)	He is going to be here at 6:00. (future only)	
	(2) definite plan (intention)	I 'm going to paint my bedroom. (future only)	
	(3) unfulfilled intention		I was going to paint my room, but I didn't have time.
<i>can</i>	(1) ability/possibility	I can run fast.	I could run fast when I was a child, but now I can't.
	(2) informal permission	You can use my car tomorrow.	
	(3) informal polite request	Can I borrow your pen?	
	(4) impossibility (negative only)	That can't be true!	That can't have been true!
<i>could</i>	(1) past ability		I could run fast when I was a child.
	(2) polite request	Could I borrow your pen? Could you help me?	
	(3) suggestion (affirmative only)	—I need help in math. You could talk to your teacher.	You could have talked to your teacher.
	(4) less than 50% certainty	—Where's John? He could be at home.	He could have been at home.
	(5) impossibility (negative only)	That couldn't be true!	That couldn't have been true!
<i>be able to</i>	(1) ability	I am able to help you. I will be able to help you.	I was able to help him.
<i>would</i>	(1) polite request	Would you please pass the salt? Would you mind if I left early?	
	(2) preference	I would rather go to the park than stay home.	I would rather have gone to the park.
	(3) repeated action in the past		When I was a child, I would visit my grandparents every weekend.
	(4) polite for "want" (with like)	I would like an apple, please.	
	(5) unfulfilled wish		I would have liked a cookie, but there were none in the house.
<i>used to</i>	(1) repeated action in the past		I used to visit my grandparents every weekend.
	(2) past situation that no longer exists		I used to live in Spain. Now I live in Korea.
<i>shall</i>	(1) polite question to make a suggestion	Shall I open the window?	

AUXILIARY	USES	PRESENT/FUTURE	PAST
<i>may</i>	(1) polite request (<i>only with I or we</i>)	<i>May I borrow</i> your pen?	
	(2) formal permission	You <i>may leave</i> the room.	
	(3) less than 50% certainty	— <i>Where's John?</i> He <i>may be</i> at the library.	He <i>may have been</i> at the library.
<i>might</i>	(1) less than 50% certainty	— <i>Where's John?</i> He <i>might be</i> at the library.	He <i>might have been</i> at the library.
	(2) polite request (<i>rare</i>)	<i>Might I borrow</i> your pen?	
<i>should</i>	(1) advisability	I <i>should study</i> tonight.	I <i>should have studied</i> last night, but I didn't.
	(2) 90% certainty (<i>expectation</i>)	She <i>should do</i> well on the test. (<i>future only, not present</i>)	She <i>should have done</i> well on the test.
<i>ought to</i>	(1) advisability	I <i>ought to study</i> tonight.	I <i>ought to have studied</i> last night, but I didn't.
	(2) 90% certainty (<i>expectation</i>)	She <i>ought to do</i> well on the test. (<i>future only, not present</i>)	She <i>ought to have done</i> well on the test.
<i>had better</i>	(1) advisability with threat of bad result	You <i>had better be</i> on time, or we will leave without you.	(<i>past form uncommon</i>)
<i>be supposed to</i>	(1) expectation	Class <i>is supposed to begin</i> at 10:00.	
	(2) unfulfilled expectation		Class <i>was supposed to begin</i> at 10:00, but it didn't begin until 10:15.
<i>must</i>	(1) strong necessity	I <i>must go</i> to class today.	(I <i>had to go</i> to class yesterday.)
	(2) prohibition (<i>negative</i>)	You <i>must not</i> open that door.	
	(3) 95% certainty	Mary isn't in class. She <i>must be</i> sick. (<i>present only</i>)	Mary <i>must have been</i> sick yesterday.
<i>have to</i>	(1) necessity	I <i>have to go</i> to class today.	I <i>had to go</i> to class yesterday.
	(2) lack of necessity (<i>negative</i>)	I <i>don't have to go</i> to class today.	I <i>didn't have to go</i> to class yesterday.
<i>have got to</i>	(1) necessity	I <i>have got to go</i> to class today.	(I <i>had to go</i> to class yesterday.)
<i>will</i>	(1) 100% certainty	He <i>will be</i> here at 6:00. (<i>future only</i>)	
	(2) willingness	— <i>The phone's ringing.</i> I'll <i>get</i> it.	
	(3) polite request	<i>Will</i> you please <i>pass</i> the salt?	