



Law / legal obligation	must	You must wear a seatbelt when you are in a car.
An authority stating a rule	must	Parent to child: You must do your homework before dinner.
Reporting a rule / expectation	be supposed to	As a student, I'm supposed to do my homework before each class.
Personal necessity / obligation	have to have got to	I have to do laundry this weekend. I've got to do laundry.
Permission	can may	Can I use a dictionary? I may not speak on a cell phone during class.
Past permission	could	When I was a child, I could watch TV for one hour a day.
Ability	can	I can use a computer.
Past ability	could	When I was a child, I could play soccer for hours. [Now that I'm older, I get tired quickly so I can't play soccer for hours.]
Possibility	can	I can pay up to \$800 for rent.
Advice	should	I have a test tomorrow. → You should go to the library to study.
Warning	had better	I lost my wallet. → You'd better cancel all your credit cards.