

## Modal Verbs

1. Read the following sentences taken from the interview and from the previous activity. Pay attention to the verbs in bold.



### Should/Shouldn't

Schools **should** ban unhealthy food machines and water machines  
**should** replace sugary drinks machines

Parents **should** educate their children to eat well.

We **shouldn't** eat unhealthy food because it has too much salt, sugar and fat.

### Must

We **must** drink a lot of water every day.

Parents **must** also start cooking healthy meals at home instead of buying junk food at the nearest fast food restaurant.

I **mustn't** eat fast food. My doctor has forbidden me.

### Mustn't

2. These verbs are called **MODAL VERBS** and they express different meanings. In pairs, **complete the sentences with: OBLIGATION/STRONG RECOMMENDATION, ADVICE and PROHIBITION.**

**SHOULD** and  
**SHOULDN'T** are used  
to give an  
\_\_\_\_\_!



**MUST** is used to  
express an  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!

**MUSTN'T** is used to  
express a  
\_\_\_\_\_!

**Modal verbs are very special verbs** (Os verbos modais são verbos muito especiais):

- 1. Modal verbs don't need an "s" on the third person singular – he/she/it.**  
(Não precisam de acrescentar um "s" na terceira pessoa do singular).  
He **should** eat more fruit and vegetables.
- 2. Modal verbs are always followed by a verb in the infinitive without "to".**  
(São sempre seguidos de um verbo no infinitivo sem "to").  
We **mustn't drink** sugary drinks.
- 3. In the negative and interrogative form, modal verbs don't need the auxiliary verb "to do".**  
(Não necessitam do verbo auxiliar "to do" para formar a negativa e a interrogativa).  
They **shouldn't** eat sweets.  
**Should** we eat sweets? No, we **shouldn't**.



## Let's practice!

The interview with Doctor Pam Smith was a success. So, the following week she returned to the *Good Food* programme. That time the listeners called to the programme to ask her a few questions.

3. Help Doctor Pam Smith answer the listeners' questions. **Circle the correct modal verb.**  
Follow the example.

a) **Listener:** What should I do to lose some weight?

**Doctor Pam:** You should/mustn't avoid sweets and fast food. You must/shouldn't drink a lot of water. You should/mustn't drink sugary drinks. You should/mustn't do some exercise.

b) **Listener:** My children love chocolates. They are always eating them. What should I do?

**Doctor Isabel:** First, you shouldn't/should have chocolates at home. If you don't have chocolates, your children will not eat them. Then, you must/mustn't tell your children that chocolates are unhealthy. You should/mustn't always have fruit at home because fruit is also sweet but it is healthy. We should/mustn't prefer fruit to sweets.