

Book: Passages 1

Level: 10<sup>th</sup>

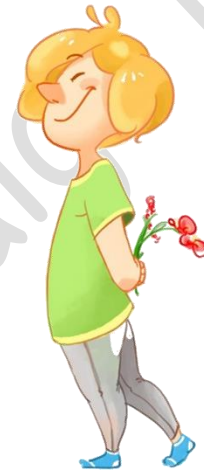
Unit: 2

Objective: Using past modals and phrasal modals of obligation.

## Past Modals and Phrasal Modals of Obligation

Read these sentences:

- I was supposed to water my neighbor's plants. [ EXPECTATION ]
- I had to water my neighbor's plants. [ OBLIGATION ]
- I should have watered my neighbor's plants. [ REGRET ]
- I needed to water my neighbor's plants. [ NECESSITY ]
- I didn't have to water my neighbor's plants. [ NO OBLIGATION ]



Past modals and phrasal modals of obligation differ in the degree of obligation they convey.

➔ **Should have** is followed by a **past participle**.

➔ **Was / were supposed to, had to, didn't have to,** and **needed to** are followed by the **simple form of the verb**.

### HAD TO

Describes strong obligation in the past and suggests there was no choice.

### WAS / WERE (NOT) SUPPOSED TO

Suggests an expectation that the action was required or prohibited. It is comparable in meaning to wasn't/weren't allowed to.

### SHOULD (NOT) HAVE

Suggests that the action was advisable, but was not done. Should not have suggests that the action was not advisable, but was done.

**NEEDED / DIDN'T NEED TO**

Suggests that an action was necessary, but there was choice about doing it or not.

**DIDN'T HAVE TO**

Means that there was no obligation to do the action.

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