

INTRODUCTION TO MODALS

GRAMMAR

No auxiliary verb to make a question or a negative

No 's' after he, she or it.

One modal at a time (we can't say: I might could go)

Need and Dare
Usually normal grammar
Rarely modal grammar

Used in the passive (modal + be + past participle)

Phrasal modals (Mostly normal grammar)

PAST MODALS

Can becomes could in past ability / possibility / possibility

Will becomes would in past willingness / predictions / habits

Would / could / sometimes might

Reported speech

Being polite / tentative

Hypothetical situations

Logical necessity

HOW LIKELY?

Probability

Prediction

Possibility

MODAL MEANINGS

SOCIAL MEANINGS

Permission

Obligation / Advice

Willingness

Followed by the infinitive without 'to'

Followed by a continuous infinitive (modal + be + verb-ing)

Followed by a perfect infinitive (modal + have + past participle)

Followed by a perfect continuous infinitive (modal + have + been + verb-ing)

MODALS FOR PERMISSION

TWO MEANINGS WITH NEGATIVES AND NEGATIVE QUESTIONS

links to OBLIGATION

TALKING ABOUT PERMISSION (RULES / LAWS AND PERMISSION ALREADY GIVEN)

FUTURE

will / won't be allowed to

PRESENT

can / can't
mustn't
am / are / is (not)
allowed to

PAST

SPECIFIC PAST

couldn't
were / was (not)
allowed to

GENERAL PAST

could / couldn't
were / was (not)
allowed to

HYPOTHETICAL PERMISSION

PAST

could have /
couldn't have
would (not) have
been allowed to

FUTURE /
PRESENT

could /
couldn't
would (not) be
allowed to

ASKING FOR PERMISSION (PRESENT / FUTURE)

may:
not common,
mostly used
between children
and adults

be allowed to:
not common, mostly
used to talk about
rules

can / could:
could is more polite
and more
common

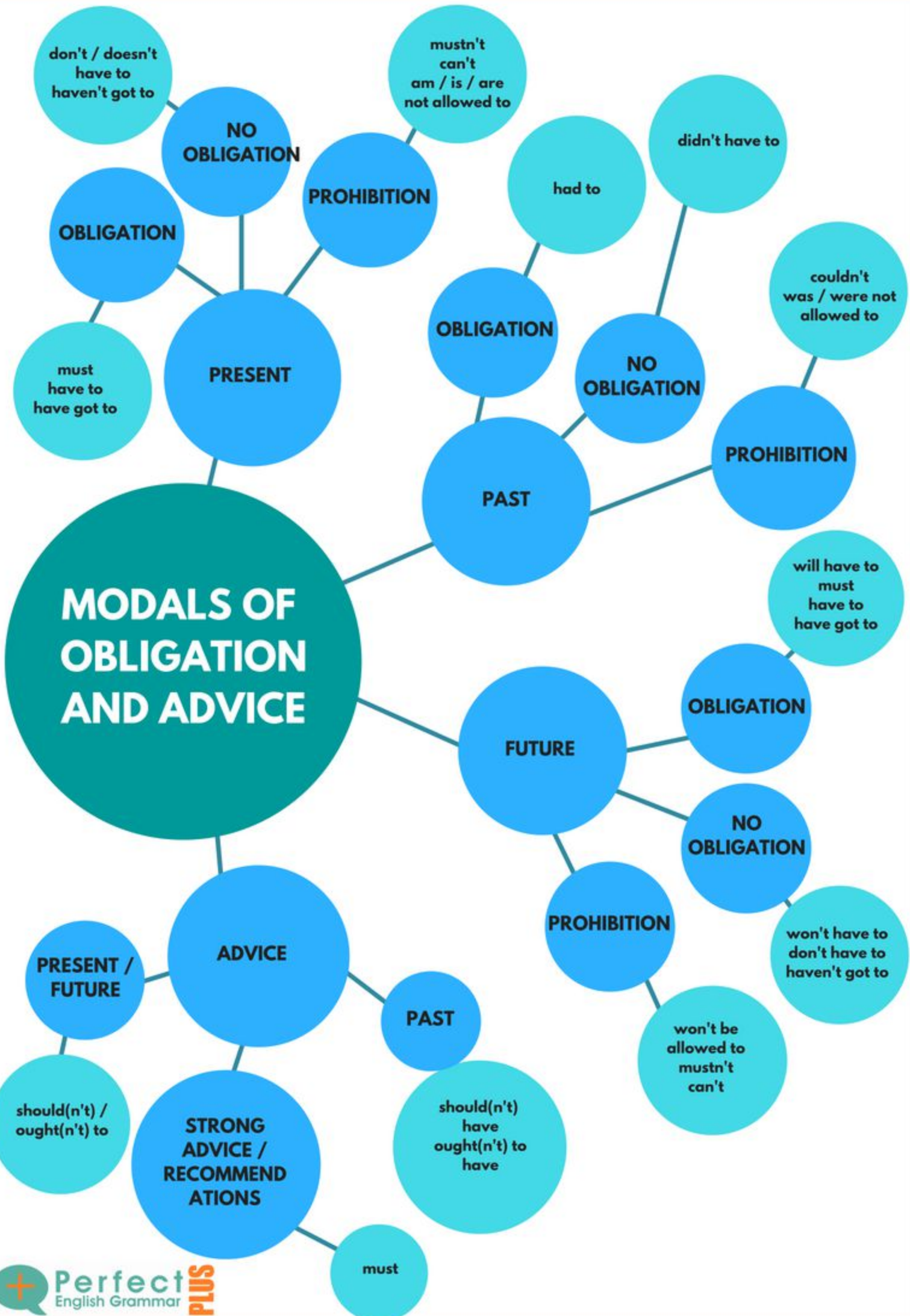
future:

future time word +
can / could / may

future tense + be
allowed to

GIVING OR REFUSING PERMISSION

can / can't
may / may not
mustn't
(NOT: could)



MODALS OF VOLITION

GENERAL WILLINGNESS

would / wouldn't

will / won't

[PRESENT]

SPECIFIC WILLINGNESS

wouldn't

PAST

WILLINGNESS / REFUSAL

wish + would
may
hope + will

HYPOTHETICAL AND TENTATIVE PREFERENCES

WISHES AND HOPES

would +
like / love / hate /
prefer / dislike

PROMISES / THREATS

will / won't

REQUESTS

OFFERS

ORDERS

SUGGESTIONS

will / won't you?
can / can't you?
would / wouldn't you?
could / couldn't you?

will / shall
must
can

can ? can't ?
could? couldn't?
might? shall?
should?
shouldn't?

can / might
could

will? won't?
must
can? could?
shall?

