

modal verbs: functions

- prohibition/ duty
- criticism
- advice
- requests
- permission
- offers/ suggestions

You can't enter this area.

prohibition

you aren't allowed to

**They couldn't enter that
area.**

prohibition

they weren't allowed to

**You mustn't touch the
statues.**

prohibition
it is forbidden

**You may not talk in the
library.**

**prohibition
formal**

**All applicants must fill in
this form.**

duty/ obligation

**All applicants had to fill in
that form.**

duty/ obligation
past

**People ought to respect
the environment.**

**It is the right thing to do but
people don't always do it.**

**He ought to have notified
the police of the burglary.**

**It was the right thing to do
but he didn't do it.**

You could at least call her.

**criticism
present**

**You could at least have
called her yesterday.**

criticism
past

He should let us know.

**criticism
present**

**He should have let us
know before.**

criticism
past

**You ought to be more
helpful.**

**criticism
present**

**You ought to have been
more helpful.**

criticism - past

**It was the right thing to do,
but you didn't do it.**