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Here is how it conjugates in the present tense:(io) devo = I have to / I must / I need to(tu) devi = you have to / you must / I need to (singular, informal)(lui) deve = he has to / he must / he needs to(lei) deve = she has to / she must / she needs to(Lei) deve = you have to / you must / you need to (singular, formal)(noi) dobbiamo = we have to / we must / we need to(voi) dovete = you have to / you must / you need to (plural)(loro) devono = they have to / they must / they need toHere are a couple of example sentences that demonstrate how to use dovere in a sentence.Dobbiamo andare!We have to go! / We must go! / We need to go!Tu devi essere Maria. Piacere di conoscerti!You must be Maria. Pleasure to meet you!In its conditional form, dovere usually translates as should.(io) dovrei = I should(tu) dovresti = you should (singular, informal)(lui) dovrebbe = he should(lei) dovrebbe = she should(Lei) dovrebbe = you should (singular, formal)(noi) dovremmo = we should(voi) dovreste = you should (plural)(loro) dovrebbero = they shouldDovresti andare via.You should leave.Devi fare il bravo! = You have to be good!Save for later!Sapere (whose primary translation is to know) isnt always officially classified as a modal verb in grammar books because it only has a modal function when the meaning is to be able to or to know how to do. Here is how you would conjugate it in the present tense:(io) so = I am able to / I know how to(tu) sai = you are able to / you know how to (singular, informal)(lui) sa = he is able to / he knows how to(lei) sa = she is able to / she knows how to(Lei) sa = you are able to / you know how to (singular, formal)(noi) sappiamo = we are able to / we know how to(voi) sapete = you are able to / you know how to (plural)(loro) sanno = they are able to / they know how toAnd here are an example sentence showing it in use:Luisa sa cantare ma non sa ballare.Luisa knows how to sing but she doesnt know how to dance.Luisa is able to sing but she isnt able to dance.In its conditional form, sapere usually translates as would be able to could or would know how to.(io) saprei = I would be able to / I could / I would know how to(tu) sapresti = you would be able to / you could / you would know how to (singular, informal)(lui) saprebbe = he would be able to / he could / he would know how to(lei) saprebbe = she would be able to / she could / she would know how to(Lei) saprebbe = you would be able to / you could / you would know how to (singular, formal)(noi) sapremmo = we would be able to / we could / we would know how to(voi) sapreste = you would be able to / you could / you would know how to (plural)(loro) saprebbero = they would be able to / they could / they would know how toSapresti fare questo lavoro?Would you know how to do this job?Wow, non sapevo che sapessi nuotare cos bene! = Wow, I didnt know you were able to swim so well!Heather Broster is a graduate with honours in linguistics from the University of Western Ontario. She is an aspiring polyglot, proficient in English and Italian, as well as Japanese, Welsh, and French to varying degrees of fluency. Originally from Toronto, Heather has resided in various countries, notably Italy for a period of six years. Her primary focus lies in the fields of language acquisition, education, and bilingual instruction.Do directly to: Italian modal verbs(verbi modali) are essential part of mastering the Italian language. These verbs allow speakers to express necessity, ability, permission, or desire and are often used in combination with another verb in the infinitive. In this guide, well explore the four main Italian modal verbs, their conjugations, common uses, and examples to help you use them confidently. Modal verbs tend to be in company with the base form of the verb meaning the action, while the modal verb signifies its modality: whether we are referring to ability, likelihood, request, permission, suggestion, obligation, etc.All Italian modal verbs have irregular present forms, and at least two of them tend to be very confusing for English learners: namely, sapere and potere. But we will get there sooner than you think.MODAL VERBS IN ITALIANFirst off, lets avoid to make our lives more difficult than they already are by breaking the whole thing down to a chart, with examples and explanations that, we hope, will be clarifying:VoleremoteredoveresaperevogliopossodevosovuoipuoidevisaivuolepudevesavogliamopossiamodobbiamosappiamovoletepotetedovetesapetevogliononpossonodevonosannoThen, you will want to see them in action with other base forms. Examples may come in handy:Vuoi assaggiare un po di gelato? (Would you like to try some ice cream?). In this case, the modal verb indicates a request modality, while the requested action (assaggiare) is in the base form.Gli impiegati pubblici devono gestire meglio i nostri soldi (state/government employees have to/must/should have a better management of our money)Now, this is the time when we make clear the difference between potere and sapere (as a modal verb). What do you notice in these examples of modal verbs in Italian?Non so giocare a tennis (I cant play tennis, I dont have this ability)Oggi non posso giocare a tennis (I know how to play tennis but today I cant)Do you spot the slight difference between sapere and potere? Sapere would be used as to be able in Italian: it implies permission or an actual ability, something you learned to do: a skill, if you want to get the point rounded up. On the other hand, potere is much more akin to an availability, an endowment: wed use it as can in Italian.ITALIAN MODAL VERBS IN PAST: PASSATO PROSSIMO VS IMPERFETTOA short, special note for when we use Italian modal verbs in past tenses: depending on whether you are using passato prossimo or imperfetto, their meaning can change slightly. Let us take a look at two examples:Ho dovuto chiamare i poliziotti per fermare la lite della coppia nel palazzo di fronte al mio (I had to call the cops on the couple living in the building across the street to have their quarrel stop). Here, a certain, definite, decided action, played a pivotal role in restoring peace and tranquility in the neighborhood.Dovevo chiamare i poliziotti per fermare la lite della coppia nel palazzo di fronte al mio (but we do not know whether you did or not; maybe you just grabbed some popcorn and sat in the balcony to look at the show taking place)So, when you use the imperfetto, you may need to add clarifying information.AND ITS A WRAPWe hope that this helps you when it comes to modal verbs in Italian. And now, to consolidate your newly acquired knowledge, test yourself with some exercises.Would you like to learn more Italian grammar? Take a look at these possessive adjectives and pronouns in Italian!EXERCISES Follow us onYouTube,InstagramandFacebook!If youre studying Italian and modal verbs are a source of insecurity, youre in the right place. Here, youll learn that Italian modal verbs aren't all that difficult, and youll find everything you need to get started using them. First of all, the good news: There are only three modal verbs in Italian.Dont forget: where theres a will, theres a way. This proverb is important because it means that when you want something enough, you can do anything, but also because it reflects two Italian modal verbs volere and potere. The third modal verb is dovere.So how do these modal verbs work? Its simple: these verbs govern another verb that usually follows them, and they add a certain modality to the meaning.modality of desire with the verb volere (Voglio andare al mare.)modality of obligation or need with dovere (Devo studiare di pi!)modality of possibility with the verb potere (Stasera non posso uscire).As you can probably tell from the above examples, the verb that follows is always in the infinitive (andare, studiare, uscire). Easy to remember, right?If the good news is that there aren't many modal verbs, the less-good news is that they seem to be quite irregular. Lets look at how they conjugate in the present indicative and how they are used in everyday life. For each verb, youll also find an Italian song to help you learn them while you're singing in the shower!The Four Italian Modal VerbsVolere (desire)The title of this beautiful Italian song has three verbs: Voglio (modal volere) vedere (see) dovunque (dovere) andare (andare). Volere means both the sense of desire to the verb that follows it, and in the present indicative, the closest translation in English is to want.Voglio imparare l'italiano. I want to learn Italian.When used in the conditional, volere is closer to would like.Vorrei vivere in Italia. I would like to live in Italy.Potere (ability)Potere is used in two ways: to express ability or skill, in the sense that you know how to do something. For example: I can speak Italian.Mia sorella sa guidare la moto. My sister knows how to drive a motorcycle.Potere also expresses that something is or isn't allowed. For example: Non puoi guidare la moto. You can't drive a motorcycle.Potere can also express that something is or isn't allowed. For example: Non puoi usare il telefono mentre guidi. Youre not allowed to use the phone while youre driving.In English, it could be translated as can and could, as well as to be able to, to be allowed to, to be able to, to be allowed to, to be able to, to be allowed to,