

Winter Conditions – Part 2 – Modal Auxiliaries: Good Ideas and Bad Ideas

- In this lesson we will work with this form: subject + modal + verb.
- There are some things we can do during the winter that are good ideas, and there are some things that are bad ideas. We can use modal auxiliaries to talk about this.

1. We can use “**should**” and “**ought to**” to say what we think is a good idea during the winter. If we want our words to sound stronger, we can use “**had better**”.

- A. should, ought to = a good idea, advisable
- B. had better = strong advice or a warning

- note: It is more common to use “**should**”. There are times when we use “**ought to**”, but “**should**” is more common.

2. We can use “**shouldn’t**”, “**should not**”, “**mustn’t**”, and “**must not**” to say what we think is a bad idea during the winter. If we want our words to sound stronger, we can use “**had better not**”.

- A. shouldn’t, should not = a bad idea – not a good idea – not advisable
- B. mustn’t, must not – can mean not a good idea and not advisable – Don’t do it.
- C. mustn’t, must not – can also indicate prohibition – You are not allowed to do it.
 - prohibition = not permitted to do something – not allowed to do something
- D. had better not – indicates strong advice or a warning

3. We can use “**have to**”, “**has to**”, “**have got to**”, “**has got to**”, and “**must**” to say what we think or believe we are required to do during the winter.

- If you think or believe something is **required**, then you think it’s a **good idea**.
- note: People often use contractions.
 - I’ve got to, you’ve got to, he’s got to, she’s got to
 - we’ve got to, you’ve got to, they’ve got to

4. We can use, “**do not have to**”, and “**does not have to**” to say what we think or believe we are not required to do during the winter.

- If you think or believe something is **not required**, then you think it’s a **bad idea**.
- note: People often use contractions.
 - I don’t have to, you don’t have to, he doesn’t have to, she doesn’t have to
 - we don’t have to, you don’t have to, they don’t have to

Think of some things that are good ideas and bad ideas for the winter. Talk to your classmates and your teacher. You can think of things to say and write together. Make questions too.

- examples: You **should wear a heavy jacket** because it’s going to be cold today.
You **don’t have to drive** if you think the roads are too slippery.
You **had better be careful**. It is snowing so much that it’s difficult to see.
You **shouldn’t drive so fast** if there’s a lot of snow on the roads.
- note: “**had better**” – This is often reduced to ‘**d better** or **better** in everyday speaking.
– You’d better be careful. You better be careful. You’d better not drive fast.
- note: Do not use “to” after the following modal auxiliaries: should, must, had better.