



Semi-modal verb **DARE**

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The semi-modal verbs (or marginal modals) are: dare, need, used to and ought to. They behave similarly to modal verbs but also share some characteristics with main verbs. For example, unlike modal verbs, some semi-modal verbs are followed by to, but like modal verbs, they do not change form for person.

DARE as a modal verb means "to have the courage to do something"

As a modal verb, **DARE** is typically used in negative and interrogative sentences and it is followed by a bare infinitive (verb without to)

Negatives and questions are formed without 'do'

AFFIRMATIVE : When **DARE** as a modal verb is used in affirmative sentences, there must be a word of negative meaning in the same clause. This word can be outside the verb phrase and may be a word with a negative sense, such as only, never, hardly.

DARE AS A MODAL VERB

- No one dare go there
- No sensible driver dare risk that chance.

DARE AS A MAIN VERB can be followed by a to-infinitive or an infinitive without to.

- No one dares (to) go there / If she dares (to) go there...

NEGATIVE : DARE NOT or DAREN'T

- I daren't think how many victims there are / I daren't tell him - he'll be so angry / I dare not say what I think

QUESTIONS : **DARE** as a modal verb also occurs in interrogative sentences, but this use is very formal.

- Dare anyone do that? / Daren't he go there? / Dare he tell her the truth?

PAST TENSE : **DARE** as a modal is rarely used in the past tense. We use it as a main verb instead.

- I didn't dare say anything for fear of offending him. / Only a few journalists dared to cover the story.

PHRASES - I dare say / I daresay: Used to indicate that one believes something is probably true.

- I dare say you've heard about her.

How dare you : Used to express indignation.

- How dare you talk to me like that!

Don't you dare... :Used to order someone threateningly not to do something.

- Don't you dare touch me!