



# Semi-modal verb **NEED**

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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.

**NEED means to have to have something, or to want something very much.**

As a modal verb, **NEED** is typically used in negative sentences or in affirmative sentences with a negative meaning and it is followed by a bare infinitive (verb without to)

**AFFIRMATIVE :** The use of **NEED** as a modal verb in affirmative sentences is not very common. It is rather formal. it is more usual to use **NEED TO**.

## NEED AS A MODAL VERB

- If she wants anything, she need only ask.
- Need we leave so soon?
- He need only ask and I will tell him.

## NEED AS A MAIN VERB (NEED TO)

- If she wants anything, she only needs to ask.
- Do we need to leave so soon?
- He only needs to ask and I will tell him.

**NEGATIVE :** It is used to give sb permission not to do sth in the immediate future.

- You needn't worry about that. / You needn't come until later.

**When we are talking about general necessity, we normally use DON'T NEED TO:**

- Vegetarians think that we don't need to kill animals to eat.

**Negatives and questions are formed without 'do'.**

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

- Need I say more? / Where will you all be today? – Need you ask? / Need you make so much noise?

**NEEDN'T + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE - Need as a modal does not have a past tense form.**

**Needn't + have + past participle**, however, is used for actions which were performed but were unnecessary

- You needn't have washed the dishes. I would've put them in the dishwasher.  
(You washed the dishes, but it wasn't necessary)