

| Present | Past | Substitute (Ersatzform) + Beispiele |
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| Ich kann CAN | Ich konnte Ich könnte COULD | (to) be able to do something Present: I can lift 10 kgs. = I am able to lift 10 kgs. Past: I could lift 10kgs. = I was able to lift 10 kgs. |
| Ich darf MAY | Ich durfte MIGHT | (to) be allowed to do something Present: I may park my car here. = I am allowed to park my car here. Past: I might park my car here. = I was allowed to park my car here. |
| Ich soll SHALL | Ich sollte SHOULD | (to) be supposed to do something Present: I shall (soll) go home now. = I am supposed to go home now. Past: I should (sollte) go home now. = I was supposed to go home. I ought to (sollte) go home now. |
| | Ich sollte OUGHT TO | |
| Ich muss | Ich musste Ich müsste HAD TO | (to) have to do something You must do your homework. = You have to do your homework. You had to do your homework. |
| Ich werde WILL (das bedeutet NICHT ich will!) | Ich würde WOULD | (to) be going to do something I will sing a song next Friday. = I am going to sing a song next Friday. I would (würde) sing a song. = I was going to sing a song. |