

German

School rules [1 / 3]

- Using the verbs *dürfen*, *müssen* and *können*

Herr Jones



Paar

a

haben

sagen

fahren

Tag

klar



lang

a

Mann

Klasse

kalt

danke

Gast
[guest]



unten

U

dunkel

Meinung

Punkt

Mutter

nutzen

[to use]



ruhig	quiet
pünktlich	punctual
höflich	polite
die Toiletten	toilets
das Klassenzimmer	classroom
die Kantine	canteen



dürfen - to be allowed to, may

dürfen means “to be allowed to” or “may”.

It's a strong/irregular verb so the conjugations are a bit different.

ich darf	I am allowed to
du darfst	you are allowed to
er/sie darf	he/she is allowed to

Notice the **ich** and **er/sie** are the same



müssen - to have to, must

müssen means “to have to” or “must”.

It's another strong verb so the conjugations are a bit different.

ich mus s	I have to
du mus st	you have to
er/sie mus s	he/she has to

Notice the **ich** and **er/sie** are the same



können - to be able to, can

können means “to be able to” or “can”.

Once again, it’s a strong verb so watch out for the conjugations.

ich kann	I am able to
du kannst	you are able to
er/sie kann	he/she is able to

Notice the **ich** and **er/sie** are the same



Word order

dürfen, müssen and ***können*** are all modal verbs.

Modal verb 2nd idea + infinitive at end of sentence

Ich **darf** auf die Toiletten **gehen** I **am allowed to go** to the toilet

Ich **muss** ruhig **sein** I **have to be** quiet

Ich **kann** in der Kantine **essen** I **am able to eat** in the canteen



Du or man?

Talking to one specific person:

du darfst you are allowed to

du musst you have to

du kannst you are able to

Talking about people in general:

man darf you (general) are allowed to

man muss you (general) have to

man kann you (general) are able to



Du or man?

Du **darfst** reden.

You are allowed to talk.

Man **darf** reden.

You (general) are allowed to talk.

Permission

Du **musst** pünktlich sein.

You must be punctual.

Man **muss** pünktlich sein.

You (general) must be punctual.

Obligation

Du **kannst** in der Pause essen.

You are able to eat at break.

Man **kann** in der Pause essen.

You (general) are able to eat at break.

Ability



Modal verbs:

1. ***dürfen*** means **to be allowed to, may**
2. ***können*** means **to be able to, can**
3. ***müssen*** means **to have to, must**
4. **When you use a modal verb you also need an**
Infinitive verb .. at the end of the sentence.
5. **The pronoun “*man*” refers to** **you (general)**

