

Past Tense of Modal Auxiliaries

The past tense forms of the modal auxiliaries are as follows:

infinitive	past	meaning
dürfen	durfte	may, to be permitted to
können	konnte	can, to be able to
mögen	mochte	to like
müssen	musste	must, to have to
sollen	sollte	should, to be supposed to
wollen	wollte	to want to

Goran musste sein Rad reparieren.

Goran had to repair his bike.

Die Schüler sollten bis morgen ein Kapitel lesen.

The students were supposed to read a chapter for tomorrow.

Katrina wollte sich ein Fernsehprogramm ansehen.

Katrina wanted to watch a TV program.