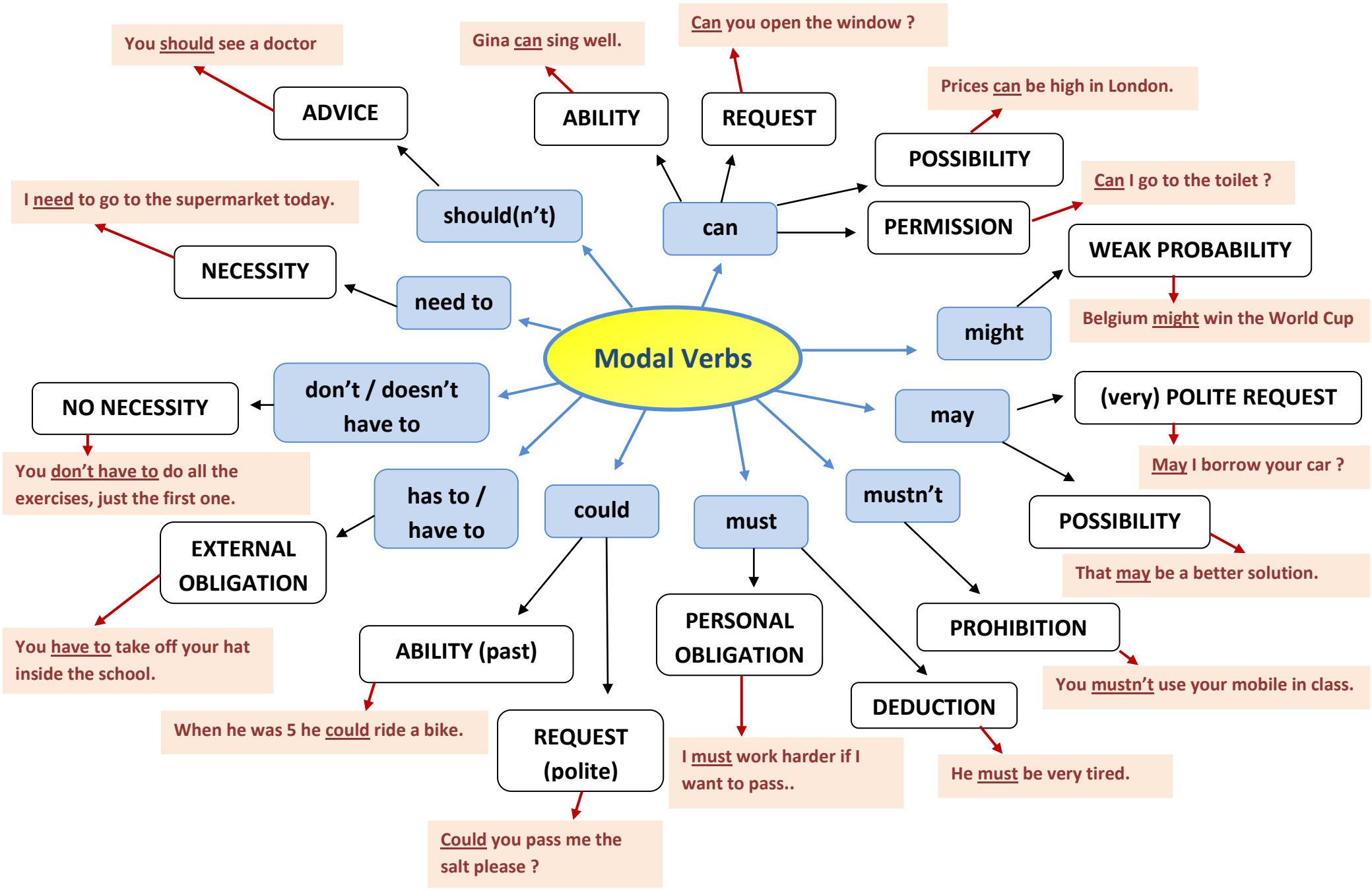
Modal Verbs
should(n't)
ADVICE
You should see a doctor
can
ABILITY
Gina can sing well.
REQUEST
Can you open the window ?
POSSIBILITY
Prices can be high in London.
PERMISSION
Can I go to the toilet ?
need to
NECESSITY
I need to go to the supermarket today.
don't / doesn't have to
NO NECESSITY
You don't have to do all the exercises, just the first one.
has to / have to
EXTERNAL OBLIGATION
You have to take off your hat inside the school.
could
ABILITY (past)
When he was 5 he could ride a bike.
REQUEST (polite)
Could you pass me the salt please ?
must
PERSONAL OBLIGATION
I must work harder if I want to pass..
DEDUCTION
He must be very tired.
mustn't
PROHIBITION
You mustn't use your mobile in class.
might
WEAK PROBABILITY
Belgium might win the World Cup
may
(very) POLITE REQUEST
May I borrow your car ?
POSSIBILITY
That may be a better solution.