

# ICT Modal Verb Collocations

## Instructions for Students

In this activity, you'll explore common **modal verb + main verb collocations** used in ICT.

You will:

1. Discover which words are most frequently used with each collocation.
2. Write your own ICT-related examples.
3. Expand your vocabulary by finding synonyms and antonyms of key verbs.

*Be creative, accurate, and professional — write like a future IT specialist!*

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## Part 1 – Exploring Collocations in Context

### Instructions

Below you have 10 **modal verb + main verb collocations** from ICT.

Modal verbs (*can, could, should, must, might, may*) often combine with verbs related to technical advice, possibility, or necessity.

#	Modal Verb + Collocation	Meaning / Context	Example Sentence from Unit Concepts
1	<b>should consider</b>	Used for strong recommendation or advice.	You should consider a fast SSD for your PC.
2	<b>can prevent</b>	Expresses the ability to stop a negative event.	A good cooling system can prevent overheating.
3	<b>must be protected</b>	Expresses necessity or obligation, often used with the Passive Voice.	Every digital interaction must be protected.
4	<b>could overlay</b>	Expresses a potential function or possibility.	AR glasses could overlay instructions on a machine in real time.
5	<b>can handle</b>	Expresses the capability to manage a task.	The CPU and GPU can handle some AI tasks.
6	<b>might need</b>	Expresses a possible future necessity or requirement.	Your system might need a larger RAM module to run that program.

#	Modal Verb + Collocation	Meaning / Context	Example Sentence from Unit Concepts
7	<b>must analyze</b>	Expresses a strong requirement for professional action.	Technicians must analyze data trends before proposing a solution.
8	<b>should upgrade</b>	Expresses a necessary action to improve performance.	They should upgrade their motherboard and processor to include an NPU.
9	<b>can interact</b>	Expresses the user's capability with the system.	Peripherals can interact with the system.
10	<b>may be analysed</b>	Expresses possibility, often used with the Passive Voice (e.g., in research).	Extremely large data sets may be analysed to reveal patterns and trends.

## Exercise 1 – Synonyms and Antonyms Challenge

### Instructions

For each of the main verbs below:

1. Find **two synonyms** and **two antonyms** that could fit in ICT contexts.
2. Choose one of your words and write a short **example sentence** using it.

Modal Verb + Main Verb	Main Verb	Synonyms (x2)	Antonyms (x2)	Example Sentence
should consider	consider	evaluate, assess	ignore, neglect	Engineers should evaluate the risks before updating the firmware.
can prevent	prevent	avoid, stop	cause, allow	A firewall can stop unauthorized access to the network.
must be protected	protect	secure, safeguard	expose, endanger	Sensitive customer data must be secured at all times.
could overlay	overlay	superimpose, layer	separate, detach	The AR headset could superimpose navigation arrows on the real world.
can handle	handle	manage, process	fail, ignore	The new GPU can process complex 3D graphics efficiently.

Modal Verb + Main Verb	Main Verb	Synonyms (x2)	Antonyms (x2)	Example Sentence
might need	need	require, demand	possess, offer	You might require additional storage for your backups.
must analyze	analyze	examine, inspect	ignore, overlook	Data scientists must examine all variables before drawing conclusions.
should upgrade	upgrade	update, enhance	downgrade, degrade	Users should enhance their operating system for better security.
can interact	interact	communicate, connect	isolate, disconnect	Smart devices can communicate with each other via IoT protocols.
may be analysed	analyse	study, evaluate	ignore, dismiss	User feedback may be studied to improve interface design.

## Exercise 2 – Collocations Challenge

### Instructions

For each one:

1. Find **2–3 words or expressions** that are frequently combined with it (e.g., typical nouns, objects, or complements used in ICT).
2. Then, write **5 original sentences** using some of those collocations in context.

### Collocations to Work With

#### 1. should consider

**Common combinations:** upgrading your hardware, implementing security protocols, using cloud storage

**Sentences:**

1. You should consider upgrading your hardware to boost performance.
2. IT managers should consider implementing security protocols for remote workers.
3. Developers should consider using cloud storage to improve collaboration.
4. The company should consider migrating its servers to a more secure provider.

5. Students should consider learning about cybersecurity fundamentals early on.

## **2. can prevent**

**Common combinations:** data loss, system failure, malware attacks

**Sentences:**

1. Regular backups can prevent data loss during a crash.
2. A UPS can prevent sudden system failure.
3. Firewalls can prevent malware attacks.
4. Updated antivirus software can prevent unauthorized access.
5. Good maintenance can prevent hardware overheating.

## **3. must be protected**

**Common combinations:** personal data, user privacy, network access

**Sentences:**

1. User privacy must be protected under all circumstances.
2. Sensitive files must be protected with encryption.
3. The company database must be protected from external threats.
4. Network access credentials must be protected from phishing.
5. Customer information must be protected according to GDPR regulations.

## **4. could overlay**

**Common combinations:** digital instructions, visual data, 3D models

**Sentences:**

1. AR tools could overlay digital instructions on industrial equipment.
2. The system could overlay sensor data on the user's field of vision.
3. A future interface could overlay 3D models onto real-world surfaces.
4. The app could overlay temperature information in real time.
5. Smart glasses could overlay repair steps for technicians.

## **5. can handle**

**Common combinations:** multiple tasks, large data sets, heavy workloads

**Sentences:**

1. The processor can handle multiple tasks simultaneously.
2. This software can handle large data sets efficiently.

3. The new system can handle heavy workloads without lag.
4. Cloud servers can handle thousands of user requests per second.
5. The GPU can handle AI-based rendering smoothly.

## **6. might need**

**Common combinations:** additional memory, software updates, system maintenance

**Sentences:**

1. Your device might need additional memory to run this application.
2. The platform might need a software update to fix bugs.
3. The network might need system maintenance during peak hours.
4. You might need to reinstall drivers after the upgrade.
5. The user might need admin privileges to install the package.

## **7. must analyze**

**Common combinations:** performance metrics, user feedback, data trends

**Sentences:**

1. Engineers must analyze performance metrics after deployment.
2. Data analysts must analyze user feedback to enhance UX design.
3. IT teams must analyze data trends to predict server demand.
4. Researchers must analyze algorithm behavior for bias detection.
5. Administrators must analyze network traffic for potential threats.

## **8. should upgrade**

**Common combinations:** operating system, software version, hardware components

**Sentences:**

1. You should upgrade your operating system for better compatibility.
2. Businesses should upgrade their software version regularly.
3. Users should upgrade hardware components to support AI applications.
4. The IT department should upgrade network routers for higher speeds.
5. Developers should upgrade their IDE to access new features.

## **9. can interact**

**Common combinations:** smart devices, user interface, AI assistants

**Sentences:**

1. Smart devices can interact with each other via Wi-Fi.
2. Users can interact with the interface through voice commands.
3. Robots can interact with AI assistants in automated environments.
4. IoT systems can interact to share real-time sensor data.
5. Students can interact with the learning platform using gestures.

## **10. may be analysed**

**Common combinations:** user behavior, collected data, performance results

### **Sentences:**

1. User behavior may be analysed to personalize recommendations.
2. Collected data may be analysed for performance optimization.
3. Security logs may be analysed to detect suspicious activity.
4. System reports may be analysed to plan future upgrades.
5. Sensor outputs may be analysed to improve predictive models.