

# MODALS

**Main Modal verbs are:-**

may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should, must, ought to, dare, need & used to.

## Features of modals

1.They are used as helping verbs with the main verbs to express permission, ability, obligation, possibility, probability, necessity, uncertainty and so on.

2.Modal verbs are never used alone. They always have a main verb in the sentence.

EX - He can swim across the river.

3.Modals do not change their form (we can't add 's', 'ing' or 'en') according to the tense.

4.Modals are not governed by the number and the person of the subject.

He can do this work.

I can do this work.

She can do this work.

They can do this work.

<b>5.Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.</b>
<b>6.Infinitive 'To' comes only after two Modals - 'Used to' and 'Ought to'. Infinitive 'To' does not come after other Modals.</b>

## 1. *can*

Use	Examples
ability to do sth. in the present (substitute form: to be able to)	I <b>can</b> <b>speak</b> English.
permission to do sth. in the present (substitute form: to be allowed to)	<b>Can</b> I <b>go</b> to the cinema?
request	<b>Can</b> you <b>wait</b> a moment, please?
offer	I <b>can</b> <b>lend</b> you my car till tomorrow.
suggestion	<b>Can</b> we <b>visit</b> Grandma at the weekend?

possibility	It <b>can</b> <b>get</b> very hot in Arizona.
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## 2. *could*

Use	Examples
ability to do sth. in the past (substitute form: to be able to)	I <b>could</b> <b>speak</b> English.
permission to do sth. in the past (substitute form: to be allowed to)	I <b>could</b> <b>go</b> to the cinema.
polite question *	<b>Could</b> I <b>go</b> to the cinema, please?
polite request *	<b>Could</b> you <b>wait</b> a moment, please?
polite offer *	I <b>could</b> <b>lend</b> you my car till tomorrow.
polite suggestion *	<b>Could</b> we <b>visit</b> Grandma at the weekend?
possibility *	It <b>could</b> <b>get</b> very hot in Montana.

## 3. *may*

Use	Examples
possibility	It <b>may</b> <b>rain</b> today.

permission to do sth. in the present (substitute form: to be allowed to)	<b>May</b> I <b>go</b> to the cinema?
polite suggestion	<b>May</b> I <b>help</b> you?

#### 4. *might*

Use	Examples
possibility (less possible than may) *	It <b>might</b> <b>rain</b> today.
hesitant offer *	<b>Might</b> I help you?

#### 5. *must*

Use	Examples
force, necessity	I <b>must</b> <b>go</b> to the supermarket today.
possibility	You <b>must</b> <b>be</b> tired.
advice, recommendation	You <b>must</b> <b>see</b> the new film with Brad Pitt.

#### 6. *must not/may not*

Use	Examples
prohibition (must is a little stronger)	You <b>mustn't</b> <b>work</b> on dad's computer.
	You <b>may not</b> <b>work</b> on dad's computer.

## 7. *need not*

Use	Examples
sth. is not necessary	I <b>needn't go</b> to the supermarket, we're going to the restaurant tonight.

## 8. *ought to*

similar to *should* – *ought to* sounds a little less subjective

Use	Examples
advice	You <b>ought to drive</b> carefully in bad weather.
obligation	You <b>ought to switch</b> off the light when you leave the room.

## 9. *shall*

used instead of *will* in the 1st person

Use	Examples
suggestion	<b>Shall</b> I <b>carry</b> your bag?

## 10. *should*

Use	Examples
advice	You <b>should drive</b> carefully in bad weather.

obligation	You <b>should switch</b> off the light when you leave the room.
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## 11. will

Use	Examples
wish, request, demand, order (less polite than would)	<b>Will</b> you please <b>shut</b> the door?
prediction, assumption	I think it <b>will rain</b> on Friday.
promise	I <b>will stop</b> smoking.
spontaneous decision	Can somebody drive me to the station? - I <b>will</b> .
habits	She's strange, she' <b>ll sit</b> for hours without talking.

## 12. would

Use	Examples
wish, request (more polite than will)	<b>Would</b> you <b>shut</b> the door, please?
habits in the past	Sometimes he <b>would bring</b> me some flowers.

\* These are no past forms, they refer to the future.

Fill in the blanks with a modal auxiliary verb.

1. .... you mind posting this letter for me?

Could

Would

Should

2. .... you lend me your bicycle?

Shall

Will

May

3. You ..... not come to my door again.

will

shall

would

4. You ..... regret this.

shall

may

can

5. What ..... we do now?

will

shall

can

6. Parents ..... teach their children to be honest.

shall

should

would

7. He ..... take rest if he is tired.

would

can

shall

8. You ..... have told me before borrowing my car.

would

should

might

9. The students asked if they ..... go home early.

would

could

can

10. I ..... run faster when I was younger.

would

should

could

11. You ..... not light a match. Gas is leaking.

must

should

could

12. I ..... smoke before I fell ill.

was used to

used to

Answers

1. Would you mind posting this letter for me?

2. Will you lend me your bicycle?

3. You shall not come to my door again.

4. You shall regret this.

5. What shall we do now?

6. Parents should teach their children to be honest.

7. He can take rest if he is tired.

8. You should have told me before borrowing my car.

9. The students asked if they could go home early.

10. I could run faster when I was younger.

11. You must not light a match. Gas is leaking.

12. I used to smoke before I fell ill.