

MODAL AUXILIARIES

- ✓ The form of a modal does not change from first person to third person:

I can. / He can.

- ✓ You never put *to* after a modal:

Incorrect: *I can to type.*

Correct: *I can type.*

- ✓ We use modals to help give verbs extra meaning. Here are the modals for this practice with their extra meanings:

- ⇒ can = ability (*He can type 65 words per minute.*)
= permission [informal language] (*I can punch out early.*)
- ⇒ could = possibility (*She could be late because of the heavy rain.*)
- ⇒ will = future [usually for a promise or prediction] (*I'm sure they'll get raises.*)
- ⇒ may = possibility (*She may be late because of the heavy rain.*)
= permission [formal language] (*I may punch out early.*)
- ⇒ might = possibility (*She might be late because of the heavy rain.*)
- ⇒ shall = future [formal language, usually an offer or a suggestion] (*Shall we meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss the latest budget report?*)
- ⇒ should = advice, suggestion, a good idea (*You should check the books again.*)
= expectation (*Because he works so hard, he should get promoted soon.*)
- ⇒ ought to = should (*You ought to call her.*)
- ⇒ must = necessity (*The bookkeeper must finish doing the payroll by Thursday.*)
= logical conclusion (*It must be very stressful being a CEO.*)
- ⇒ would = possibility (*I would have gotten to work on time, but my train was late.*)
= intent (*He promised he would pick her up on time.*)

Practice: Modal Auxiliaries

DIRECTIONS: Mark the choice that best completes the sentence.

1. My receptionist _____ set you up with an appointment. Just go down the hall to your right. (A) can (B) might (C) may (D) ought to
2. _____ I hang your coat while you're removing your shoes? (A) Shall (B) Would (C) Must (D) Ought
3. We _____ finish this assignment by the deadline, but it's pretty unlikely. (A) can (B) might (C) will (D) would