**English Reviewer**

**Modals**

**Functions of Modals:**

* **Definition –** Modal verbs (also called modal auxiliaries) are *auxiliary verbs* that express meanings like **ability, possibility, necessity, permission, obligation, and probability**.
* **Function –** They never standalone — they must be followed by the **base form** of a main verb (without *to*, except for *ought to*).
* **Main modal verbs in English:** can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, ought to

**Main Characteristics of Modals:**

* **Cannot stand alone** – a **modal** must always be followed by the **base form** of a main verb.
* Correct: *She* ***can sing***.
* Wrong: *She* ***can****.* (incomplete)
* **No -s form in the third person singular** – unlike regular verbs.
* Correct: *He* ***can play*** *the piano.*
* Wrong: *He* ***cans play***.
* **No infinitive or participle forms** – you cannot say *to can*, *canning*, or *canned* (except in the food context).
* **Do not use “do” for questions or negatives** – instead, the **modal** itself changes position.
* Question: *Can you help me?*
* Negative: *You cannot (can’t) help me.*

**Main Modal Verbs in English:**

* **Can** – **Ability, Possibility, Permission** (*I* ***can swim*** *fast.*)
* **Could** – **Past Ability, Possibility, Politeness** (*This* ***could be*** *dangerous.*)
* **May** – **Possibility, Permission** (*You* ***may enter*** *now.*)
* **Might** – **Weaker Possibility** (*She* ***might come*** *later.*)
* **Shall** – **Future Intention, Suggestion/Offer** (*We* ***shall meet*** *again.*)
* **Should** – **Advice, Obligation, Probability** (*You* ***should study*** *harder.*)
* **Will** – **Future Certainty, Willingness** (*He* ***will travel*** *tomorrow.*)
* **Would** – **Politeness, Past Habit, Hypothetical** (*I* ***would help*** *if I could.*)
* **Must** – **Necessity, Strong Probability** (*You* ***must wear*** *a seatbelt.*)
* **Ought to** – **Advice, Moral Duty** (*You* ***ought to respect*** *your parents.*)

**Form in Sentences:**

* **Affirmative**: Subject + **modal** + base verb
  + *She* ***can sing***.
* **Negative**: Subject + **modal + not** + base verb
  + *He* ***cannot swim***.
* **Question**: **Modal** + subject + base verb
  + *Can you swim?*

**If-Then Conditionals:**

* **If-Then Conditional** – An **if–then conditional** is a sentence structure used to describe a **condition** (something that must happen first) and a **result** (what happens if the condition is true).
* **Zero Conditional** – Facts which are generally true of scientific facts. (Present Simple + Present Simple)
* If you stand in the rain, you get wet.
* **First Conditional** – A possible situation in the future (Present Simple + Will/Won’t + Verb)
* If it rains, we will cancel the trip.
* **Second Conditional** – Hypothetical or unlikely situations. (Past Simple + Would + Verb)
* If I won the lottery, I would travel a lot.
* **Third Conditional** – The person imagining a different imaginary situation that did not happen. (Past Perfect + Would Have + Past Participle)

**Great Expectations by Charles Dickens:**

* **Pip**, an orphan, lives with his **sister (Mrs. Joe)** and her husband **Joe Gargery**, a kind blacksmith.
* As a child, Pip encounters an **escaped convict (Magwitch)** on the marshes and is forced to steal food and a file to help him.
* The convict is soon recaptured, but Pip feels **guilt and fear** for his secret act of kindness.
* Pip is later invited to the decaying mansion of **Miss Havisham**, a wealthy, reclusive woman who was **abandoned on her wedding day** and has never recovered.
* At Miss Havisham’s, Pip meets **Estella**, her adopted daughter, who is **beautiful but cruel**, raised to break men’s hearts.
* Pip falls in love with **Estella**, even though she constantly mocks him for being **common and poor**.
* Pip begins to dream of a life of **wealth and status**, feeling ashamed of his humble origins and of **Joe**, who remains simple and good-hearted.
* Unexpectedly, Pip is told by the lawyer **Jaggers** that he has inherited a fortune from a **mysterious benefactor**, giving him “**great expectations**.”
* Believing Miss Havisham is his benefactor and that she intends for him to **marry Estella**, Pip moves to **London** to become a gentleman.
* In London, Pip befriends **Herbert Pocket**, who helps him navigate society, but Pip also becomes **wasteful, arrogant, and distant** from Joe.
* Years later, Pip is shocked to discover that his true benefactor is not Miss Havisham but **Magwitch**, the convict he helped as a child, who made a fortune in Australia and has been funding Pip’s rise.
* Pip is horrified at first, but eventually grows to **respect and care for Magwitch**, recognizing his loyalty and humanity.
* Pip and Herbert attempt to help **Magwitch escape** from the law, but he is captured after being badly injured in a struggle.
* On his deathbed, **Magwitch learns that Estella is his daughter**, and Pip tells him that she is alive and loved, giving him peace before he dies.
* After Magwitch’s death, Pip falls ill, loses his fortune, and is left **in debt and despair**.
* **Joe** nurses Pip back to health and forgives him, showing his **unconditional love and kindness**, even though Pip had once been ashamed of him.
* Pip plans to marry **Biddy**, a kind childhood friend, but discovers she has already married **Joe**, and they are happily raising a family.
* Years later, Pip visits the ruins of **Miss Havisham’s estate** and meets **Estella**, who has suffered in a harsh marriage and is now gentler and wiser.
* Pip and Estella part as **friends with mutual respect**, and depending on the version of the ending, there is either **hope for their future together** or simply closure.

**Great Expectations Characters:**

* **Pip** – **Protagonist and narrator**, an **orphan boy** raised by his **sister and bro-in-law Joe** in the marshes of Kent. He is **passionate, romantic, unrealistic**, and has **high expectations** for himself. Pip has a **strong conscience** and wants to **improve morally and socially**.
* **Estella** – **Miss Havisham’s ward** and Pip’s **unattainable love**. She is **beautiful but cold, cruel, and not interested** in Pip. She repeatedly says she has **no heart**, yet Pip **loves her deeply**.
* **Miss Havisham** – A **wealthy eccentric old woman** living in **Satis House**. She was **abandoned on her wedding day**, wears a **faded wedding dress**, and surrounds herself with **clocks stopped at 8:40**. She raises **Estella as revenge against men**, training her to **break hearts**.
* **Abel Magwitch (The Convict)** – A **criminal** who **escapes prison** and meets **Pip as a child**. Pip’s **kindness** makes a deep impression. Magwitch later becomes Pip’s **secret benefactor**, using his **fortune from Australia** to fund Pip’s **education and gentleman lifestyle** through **Jaggers**.
* **Uncle Pumblechook** – Pip’s **pompous uncle-in-law**, a **merchant obsessed with money**. He **arranges Pip’s first meeting** with Miss Havisham. Later, he **takes credit** for Pip’s social rise, though the **true benefactor is Magwitch**.
* **Joe Gargery** – Pip’s **bro-in-law** and a **village blacksmith**. Married to **Mrs. Joe (abusive)** but stays out of **love for Pip**. He is **good, kind, uneducated, humble**, and one of the **most sympathetic characters**. Despite Pip treating him coldly, Joe remains **loyal and forgiving**.

**Charles Dickens:**

* Was a British author, journalist, editor, illustrator, and social commentator who wrote the beloved classics **Olive Twist, A Christmas Carol,** and **Great Expectations.**
* His books were first published in monthly serial installments, which became a lucrative source of income following a **childhood of abject poverty**.
* Dickens wrote 15 novels in total, including **Nicholas Nickleby**, **David Copperfield**, and **A Tale of Two Cities**.
* His writing provided a stark portrait of **poor and working-class people** in the Victorian era that helped to bring about social change.
* Dickens died in **June 1870 at age 58** and is remembered as one of the most important and influential writers of the 19th century.