

# Modals

## May and Might

### Use:

Use **May** and **Might** to talk about what will possibly happen in the future. **May** and **Might** mean *maybe will*. They can refer to the future or the present.

Examples: I might have a pen in my bag. (= present use)

She may arrive tomorrow. (= future use)

### Form:

**May** and **Might** are modal verbs, like can, will and should, so they follow the same rules.

1) Do not add 's' to the third person singular.

He may come. NOT ~~He mays come.~~

She might stay. NOT ~~She mights stay.~~

2) To form a negative, add **not** after may and might.

He may not come. She might not stay.

3) To form questions, invert *may/might* and the subject. However, questions with *might* are not common.

Might he be late?

4) *May* can be used with 'I' or 'we' to make requests. However, **can** and **could** are more common.

May I have some chocolate? May we go to the party?

5) *May* and *Might* are always followed by a verb in the infinitive form.

I might go. NOT ~~I might to go.~~

She might stay. NOT ~~She might staying.~~

## Will + adverbs of probability

### Use:

You can use will and won't with different adverbs to show how probable a future event is.

*I'll possibly go to the party.*

*I'll probably go to the party.*

*I'll definitely go to the party.*

*I'll certainly go to the party.*

### Form:

Note that **will** / **'ll** is used **before** the adverb, but **won't** is used **after** the adverb.

**I'll probably** see you later.

**I probably won't** see you later.

## Should have

### Use:

1) **Should have** can be used to express regret about the past – to wish that something in the past had happened in a different way:

*I **should have studied** for my exam!*

(I didn't study for my exams. I failed. Now I wish that the past was different.)

- 2) **Should have** can also be used to talk about something you expected to happen, but it didn't happen (or it didn't happen until later).

*The letter **should have arrived** by now, but it **hasn't come yet**.*

(I was expecting a letter, but it isn't here).

*Here's the bus! It **should have been** here twenty minutes ago.*

(The bus is late. It has just arrived).

### Form:

I	<b>should have + past participle</b>	<i>You should have phoned me.</i>
You	<b>should've</b>	
He / She / It		<i>You shouldn't have done that.</i>
We	<b>shouldn't have + past participle</b>	
They		

## Have to

### Use:

Use **have to** to talk about something you must do.

*I have to start work at eight.*

Use **don't have to** to talk about something that is not necessary.

*You don't have to work tomorrow, it's Saturday.*

### Form:

The positive, negative and question forms are shown in the table.

#### Positive

I, you, we, they	have to	verb (infinitive form) <b>(go, sleep, work)</b>
he / she / it	has to	

#### Negative

I, you, we, they	don't	have to	verb (infinitive form) <b>(go, sleep, work)</b>
he / she / it	doesn't		

#### Question

Do	I, you, we, they	have to	verb (infinitive form) <b>(go, sleep, work)</b>	?
Does	he / she / it			

### Common mistakes

- 1) Some students think that **don't have to** means **must not**, but this is not correct.

~~You don't have to use your mobile phone in class.~~

→

You **mustn't** use your mobile

phone in class.

- 2) Some students use haven't / hasn't to make negative sentences and questions.

~~My sister hasn't to work today.~~

→

My sister **doesn't have to** work today.

~~Have you to leave now?~~

→

Do you **have to** leave

now?

# Can / Could

## Use:

1) Use **can** / **can't** to talk about your abilities now.

*I can speak English. I can't speak German.*

Use **could** / **couldn't** to talk about abilities in the past.

*I could speak French when I was a child, but I can't now.*

*I couldn't speak English when I was a child, but I can now.*

2) Use **can** and **could** to make requests. Could is more polite.

*Can you cook this evening please?*

*Could you pass me the salt?*

Use **can** to reply to requests.

*Can I sit here?* => Yes, you can. Sorry, you can't.

*Can you cook this evening please?* => Yes, I can. Sorry, I can't.

DON'T use **could** in replies to requests.

*Could you lend me some money?*

Yes, I could. => Yes, sure! Sorry, I can't.

## Form:

1) **Can** and **could** are the same for all persons.

I **can/could** speak English

you **can/could** speak English

he / she / it **can/could** speak English

we **can/could** speak English

they **can/could** speak English.

2) The negative form of **can** is **cannot**, or **can't**. The negative form of **could** is **couldn't**.

3) There is always a **verb** after **can** and **could**, and the verb is always in the **infinitive form** (without to).

*Sally can help you. NOT ~~Sally can helps you.~~ / ~~Sally can to help you.~~*

4) Make questions by inverting **can** and the subject.

*I can see you this afternoon.* => Can I see you this afternoon?

*You could help me.* => Could you help me?

5) Use **can/can't** and **could/couldn't** in short answers.

*Can your brother swim?* => Yes, he can. No, he can't.

*Could you do the test?* => Yes, I could. No, I couldn't.

## Common mistakes:

1) Some students make questions incorrectly.

~~*You can speak English?*~~ => *Can you speak English?*

~~*I could sit here?*~~ => *Could I sit here?*