



## Modals

Modals (also called **modal verbs**, **modal auxiliary verbs**, **modal auxiliaries**) are special verbs which behave irregularly in English. They are different from normal verbs like "work, play, visit..." They give additional information about the **function** of the main verb that follows it. They have a great variety of **communicative functions**.

### 1. Can

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

### 2. could

Use	Examples
ability to do sth. in the past (substitute form: to be able to)	I <u>could</u> <b>speak</b> English.



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

### 3. may

Use	Examples
possibility	It <u>may</u> rain today.
permission to do sth. in the present (substitute form: to be allowed to)	<u>May</u> I <b>go</b> to the cinema?
polite suggestion	<u>May</u> I help you?

### 4. might

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



### 5. must

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

### 6. must not/may not

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

### 7. need not

Use	Examples
sth. is not necessary	I <u>need</u> not <b>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 <u>ought to</u> <b>drive</b> carefully in bad weather.
obligation	You <u>ought to</u> <b>switch</b> off the light when you leave the room.

## 9. shall

used instead of will in the 1st person

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

## 10. Should

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



## 11. Will

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

## 12. would

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