



Modal verbs

Modal verbs are a part of the larger category called auxiliary verbs which are verbs that cannot be used on their own. They need to be accompanied by another (main) verb.

The following words are modal verbs: Can, Could, Might, Must, Should, Will, Would.

We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to do things like talking about ability, asking permission making requests and offers, and so on.

The modal verbs are usually used for the following reasons:

Can: Ability, possibility and permission
The genie can help Aladdin.

Could: ability in the past, polite word used to ask for permission or request something, conditional form of can.
Aladdin could make one wish.

Might: To express future possibility
Aladdin might marry the princess.

Should: to give advice, a recommendation, a suggestion; to express that a situation is likely in the future or present.
You should use better words when making a wish.

Must: to express obligation or duty, emphasize the necessity of something, deduction
You must fight for the princess.

Would: polite invitation or to offer, describe a prediction, talking about the future in the past, (would not) past refusal
Aladdin would not give up until he married her.

The structure with modal verbs is:

Subject + Modal Verb + Main Verb (base form)

- The guy can shout to Aladdin.
- The Genie might make Aladdin's wish.

In Negative sentence the structure is the following:

Subject + Modal Verb + not + Main Verb (base form)

- Aladdin should not give up on the princess.

In Questions the structure is the following:

Modal Verb + Subject + Main Verb (base form)

- Could you tell me your wish, Aladdin?*

