MODALS

Modals are auxiliary verbs used to express various moods, abilities, possibilities, or permissions. "Can" and "could" are two common modals used to convey different shades of meaning:

1. **Can**:

   - "Can" is used to express present ability, capability, or permission.

   - It is used to indicate that something is possible or allowed in the present.

   - *Structure*: Subject + can + base verb (without "to")

   - Examples:

     - She **can** speak Spanish fluently. (Present ability)

     - **Can** I use your computer? (Permission)

2. **Can't**:

   - "Can't" is the negative form of "can" and is used to express the inability to do something or to indicate that something is not allowed.

   - *Structure*: Subject + can't + base verb (without "to")

   - Examples:

     - He **can't** swim. (Inability)

     - You **can't** park here. (Prohibition)

3. **Could**:

   - "Could" is used to express past ability, capability, or polite requests.

   - It can also be used to indicate a conditional or hypothetical situation.

   - *Structure*: Subject + could + base verb (without "to")

   - Examples:

     - She **could** play the piano when she was a child. (Past ability)

     - **Could** you please pass me the salt? (Polite request)

4. **Couldn't**:

   - "Couldn't" is the negative form of "could" and is used to indicate the inability to do something in the past.

   - *Structure*: Subject + couldn't + base verb (without "to")

   - Examples:

     - He **couldn't** find his keys yesterday. (Inability in the past)

- She **couldn't** attend the meeting due to illness. (Inability in the past)

Here's a summary chart:

Modal	Use	Example Sentences
Can	Present ability, permission	She **can** speak Spanish fluently.
Can't	Negative form of "can"	You **can't** park here.
Could	Past ability, polite requests	She **could** play the piano when she was a child.
Couldn't	Negative form of "could"	He **couldn't** find his keys yesterday.