

Modals Exercises

What are modal verb?

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.

Fundamentals:

Modals are those helping verbs, which express the ‘mode’ or ‘manner’ of the actions indicated by the main verbs. They express ability, possibility, probability, permission, obligation, etc. The most commonly used modals are shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, used to, need, and dare.

Modals are used to:

Ask permission – may, can, could

Examples:

- May I come in?
- Could I use your pen, please?

Make a request – can, could

Examples:

- Could you please give me the doctor’s telephone number?

Express a possibility – may, might, could

Examples:

- It might rain during the night.

Give advice or suggestion – should

Examples:

- You should wear a helmet while riding your motorbike.

Express necessity or compulsion – must, have to

Examples:

- We must slow down while driving in front of the school.
- I have to submit my project by tomorrow.

Express prohibition – must not

Examples:

- You must not talk loudly in the library.

Express a promise or intention – will, shall

Examples:

- I will mail you my address.

Express a wish – may

Examples:

- May you have a long life!

A modal does not change according to the number or person of the subject.

Examples:

- He can learn. I can learn. You can learn. They can learn. We can learn.

A modal is always used with a verb in its basic form. The modal changes according to the tense.

While the main verb remains in its regular form.

Examples:

- I can run. I may run. I could run. I might run.

Modals can be used without a verb in response to a question.

Examples:

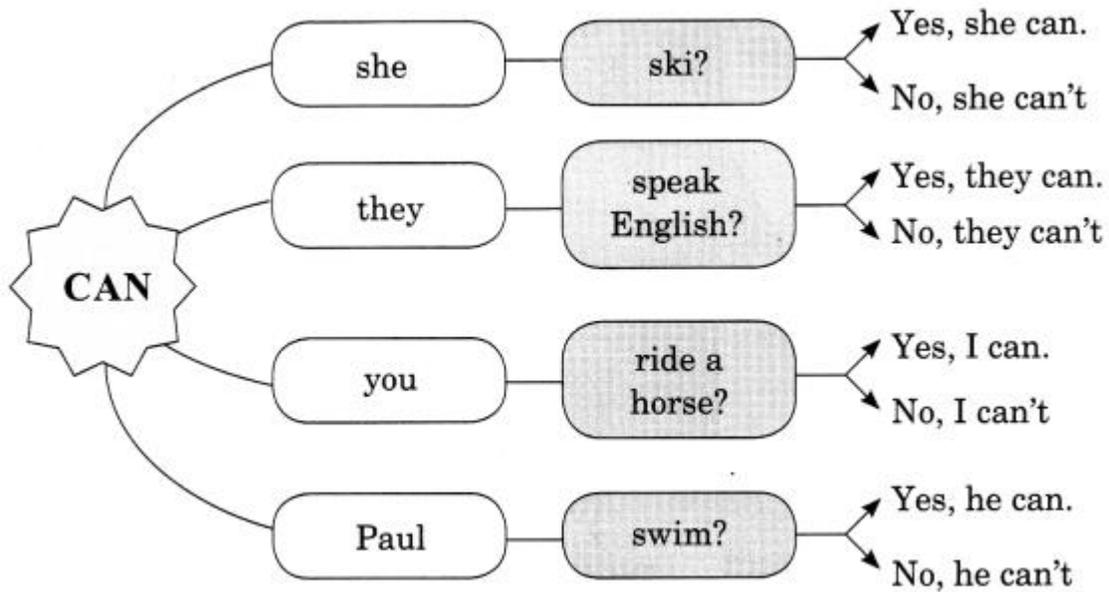
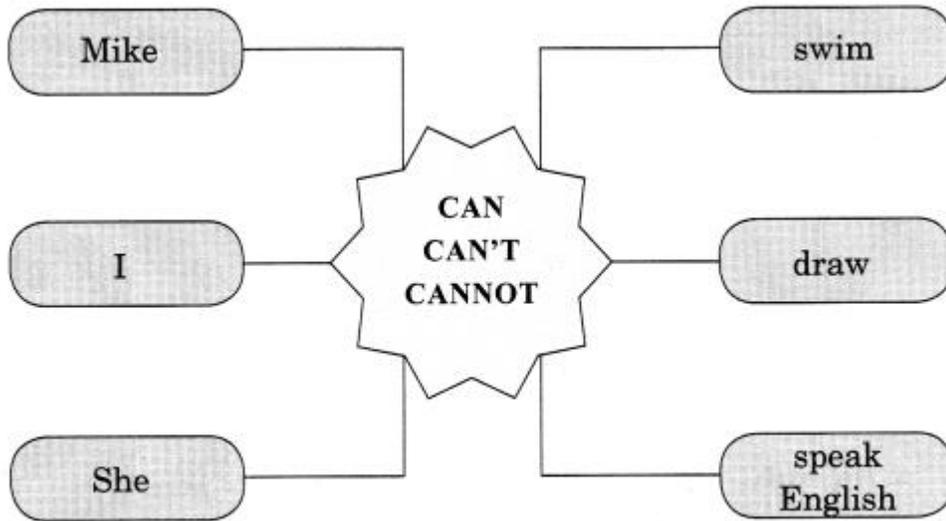
- Can you sing? I can.
- Will you sing? I will.
- Will you come? I may. /I will.

Modals, when joined with 'not' to form a negative, can be contracted.

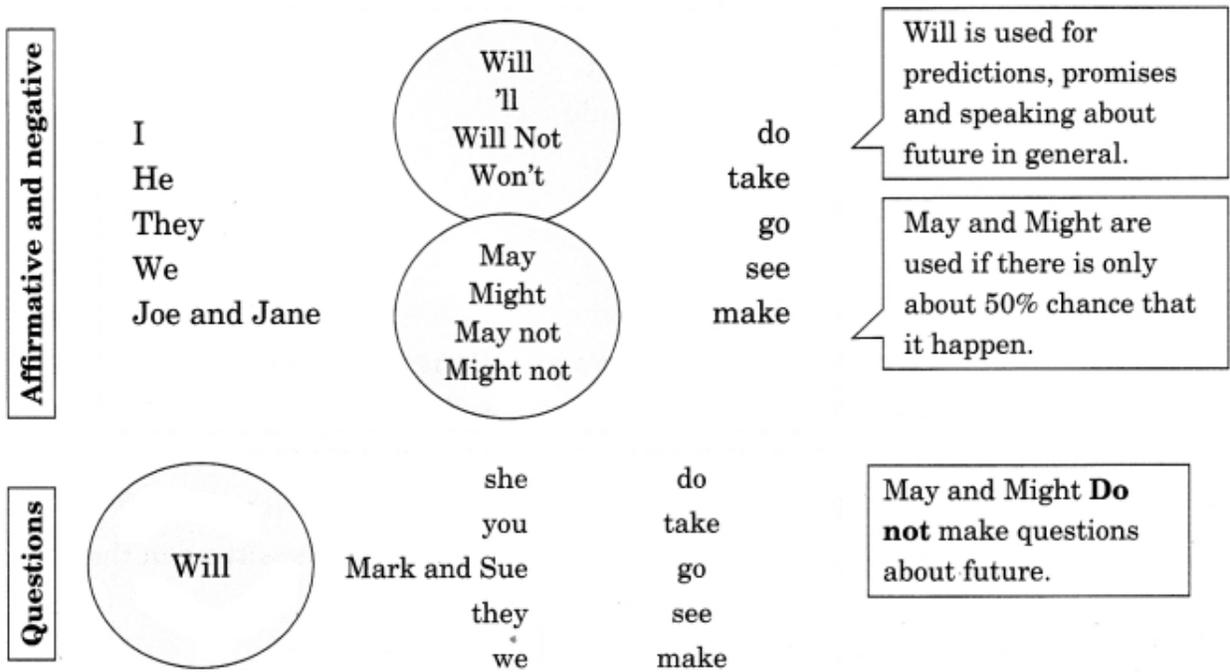
Examples:

- I cannot run. I can't run.
- I do not run. I don't run.
- I will not run. I won't run.

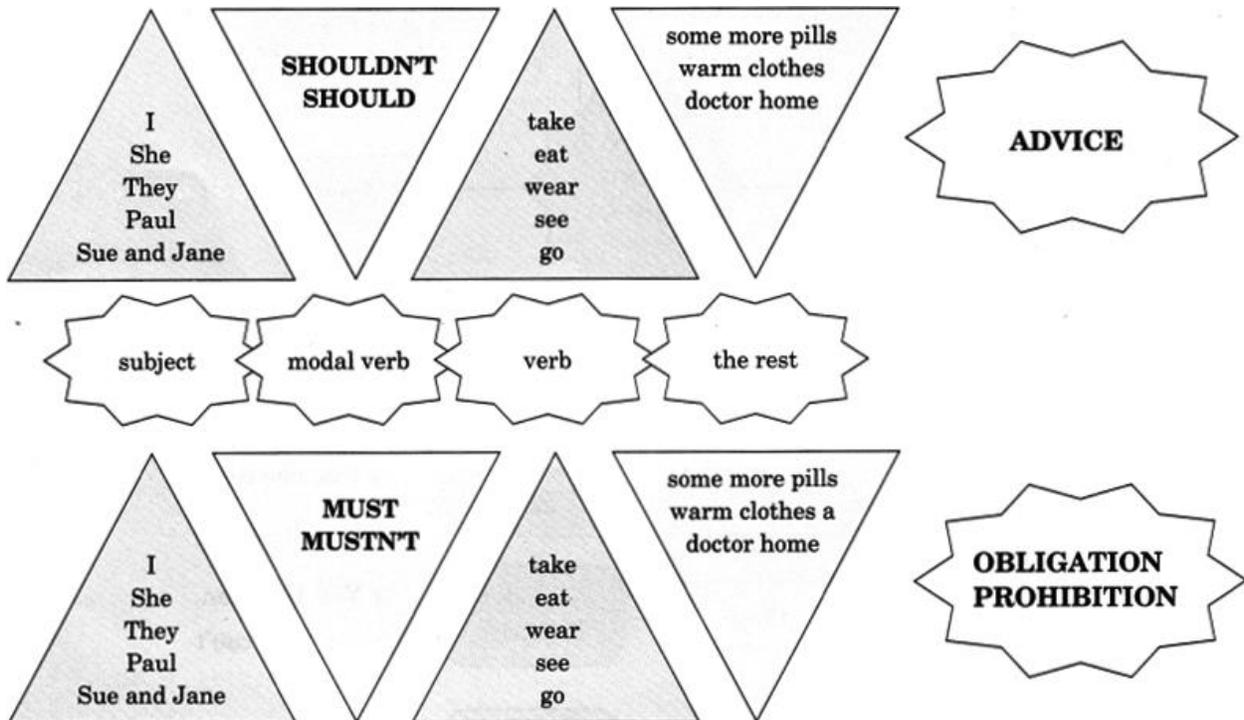
Model Verb Can



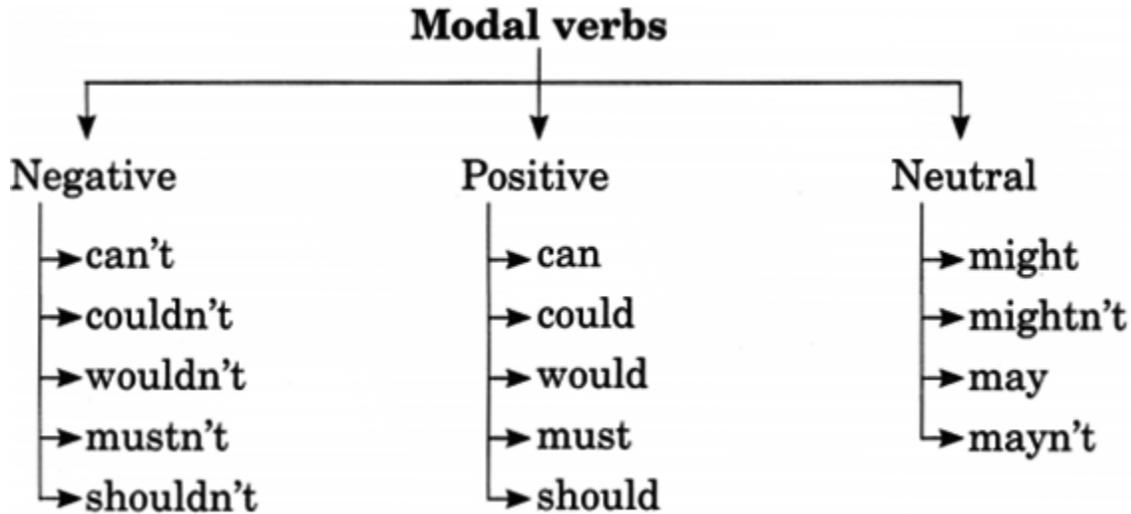
Would/Will And May/Might



Should And Must



Mind Map Of Modals



Question 1.

Fill in the blanks using must, mustn't, don't have to, should, shouldn't, might, can, can't!

1. You really _____ go to the Louvre if you're in Paris. It's wonderful.
2. You _____ come to the party if you don't feel well.
3. I don't know where Kelly is. She _____ be at the sister's house.
4. You have passed all your tests. You _____ be very pleased with yourself.
5. You _____ smoke in your car, especially if there are children sitting in the back.
6. You _____ work this evening. I can do the tasks for you.
7. John doesn't need a calculator. He _____ do sums in his head.
8. Passengers _____ open the door when the train is moving.
9. It _____ rain today. It's getting cloudy already.
10. I _____ pay for the tickets because I got them from Sam for free.

Answer:

1. must/should
2. don't have to
3. might
4. should
5. shouldn't/mustn't
6. don't have to
7. can
8. mustn't
9. might
10. don't have to

Question 2.

Rewrite the sentences with can, may, must or have to.

Ex: Is that all right if I borrow your pen?
May/ Can I borrow your pen?

Don't park your car on bends. It is illegal.
You _____

Perhaps she will agree with it. Who knows?
She _____

Our teacher asked us to tidy the classroom.
We _____

I need your help. It's too much work for me.
You _____

Look at that balloon. It's over there.
_____ see _____?

Don't worry about dinner. I'll make it.
You _____ It is not necessary to be there.
We _____

Why don't you stay with us? No problem!
You _____

Answer:

Don't park your car on bends. It is illegal.
You mustn't/can't park.

Perhaps she will agree with it. Who knows?
She may can agree with it.

Our teacher asked us to tidy the classroom.
We have to tidy.

I need your help. It's too much work for me.
You must help me

Look at that balloon. It's over there.
Can you see it?

Don't worry about dinner. I'll make it.

You needn't worry It is not necessary to be there.

We don't have to be Why don't you stay with us? No problem! You can stay.

1. Complete each sentence with a suitable modal verb.

1. You _____ queue up before boarding the bus.
2. The players _____ to come for practice if they want to beat the other team.
3. If it rains tomorrow, we _____ cancel the extra class.
4. _____ you like to come to my house on Deepavali day?
5. She _____ listen to her father's advice about her future husband.
6. You _____ help your parents at home.
7. He _____ cook a delicious meal for ten in one hour.
8. You _____ not take advantage of people's weaknesses.
9. He _____ not hesitate to lodge a complaint if it happens again.
10. Ali _____ take a break after that back-breaking job.
11. The child _____ be very naughty at times.
12. He _____ leave for Australia immediately as his wife is in a critical condition.

2. Fill in the blanks by choice a correct option?

(i) I didn't feel very well yesterday. I _____ eat anything.

- (a) cannot
- (b) couldn't
- (c) mustn't

(ii) You _____ look at me when I am talking to you.

- (a) could
- (b) should
- (c) would

(iii) I was using my pencil a minute ago. It _____ be here somewhere!

- (a) can
- (b) could
- (c) must
- (d) would

(iv) You really _____ be late again.

- (a) must not
- (b) don't have to be

(v) If you don't start working harder, you _____ repeat the course next year.

- (a) have to
- (b) must
- (c) will have to

(vi) His parents spoil him. He's always _____ to do whatever he wants.

- (a) been able
- (b) been allowed

(vii) Phone her now. She _____ home by now.

- (a) has to be
- (b) must be
- (c) would be

(viii) You _____ forget your sun cream. It's going to be very hot!

- (a) don't have to
- (b) mustn't
- (c) needn't

(ix) I _____ be able to help you, but I'm not sure yet.

- (a) might
- (b) mould

(x) Entrance to the museum was free. We _____ pay to get in.

- (a) needn't
- (b) didn't need to