

Modals Exercises

Define: We use the modals verbs can, may, must in the English language to express various meaning – ability, ' possibility, permission, attitudes, opinions, etc.

Modal Verbs

Uses of Can – Could

Can	Could
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General ability (present) I can speak English.• Ask for permission (informal) Can I borrow your pen please?• To request something Can you help me please?• Possibility It can get very cold there at night.• Offer to help someone Can I carry your bags for you?• Cannot (can't) = not allowed You cannot smoke in this room/ You can't go to the party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General ability in the past I could play the piano when I was younger.• Ask for Permission (more polite) Could I use your bathroom please?• To request something (more polite) Could you pass me the salt please?• Possibility in the past could + have + past participate You could have broken your leg.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestion (when asked what to do) We could go to the movies if you like.• Conditional of Can (would be able to) If we had some oranges I could make you some fresh juice. (= would be able to)
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May – Might

Uses of May and Might:

- Possibility

It might rain later so take an umbrella while going out.

- Give permission

You may have another cookie if you like.

- Ask for permission

May I borrow your pen, please?

- Express wishes

May the New Year bring you happiness.

- Speculate about past actions

She is late. She may have missed her plane.

May or Might?

May and Might can normally be interchanged without a significant difference in meaning.

However, Might often implies a smaller chance of something happening (When expressing possibility).

- It may rain. (70% chance)
- It might rain. (40% chance)

When expressing wishes or giving permission, only May is used.

Shall – Will

Uses of Shall

- Suggestions

Shall I get a pizza for dinner tonight?

- Offers/volunteering

That bag looks heavy. Shall I carry it for you?

- Instruction (asking for or giving)

What shall I do with your mail when it arrives

- Promises

You shall be the first person to know.

- Confirmation (statement of act)

I shall meet you there at 7.

Uses of will

- Rapid Decision

I'm thirsty. I think I will buy a drink.

- Offer

That looks heavy. I will help you with it.

- Promise

Don't worry, I won't tell anyone.

- Threat

If you don't stop, I will tell your mother.

- Refusal won't = will not

She won't listen to anything I say.

In all of the examples above, shall be replaced by another modal verb.
Suggestion/Instruction – Should Offers – Can/Could Promises/Confirmation – Will
Should

Uses of Should:

- Advice or Suggestion

Your hair is too long. You should get a haircut.

- The situation likely in the present

Mary should be at home now. Give her a call.

- Likely in the future (Prediction)

They should win tonight, they're a better team.

Should + Have + past participle

Meaning: The subject did not fulfill their obligation in the past or did not act sensibly.

You should have given your boss the report yesterday when he asked for it.

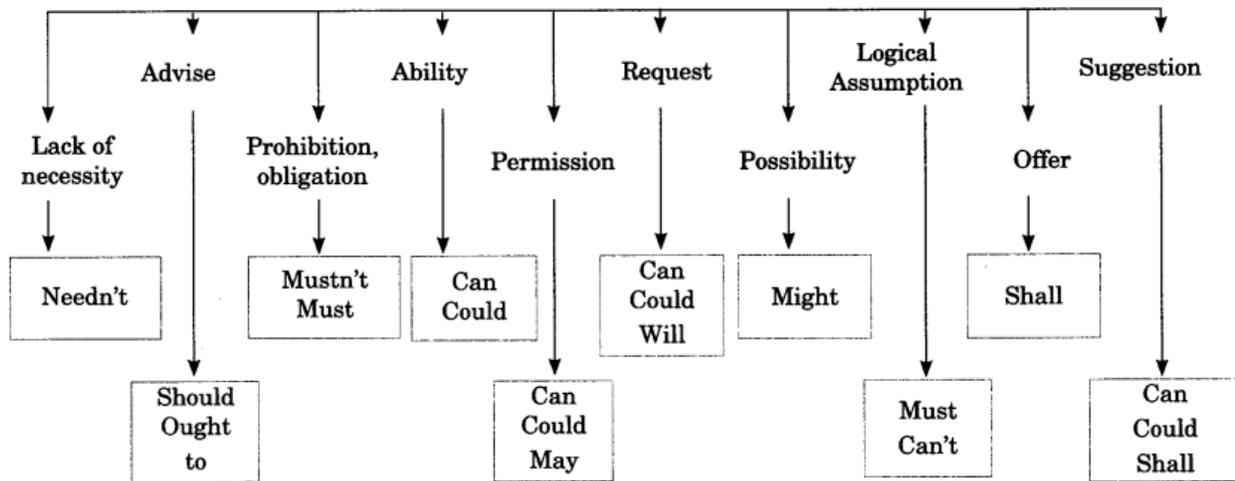
- Should + be + verb -ing

Meaning: The subject is not fulfilling their obligation not or not acting sensibly.

You should be wearing your seatbelt.

We should be studying for the test right now.

Functions of Modal Verbs



Question 1.

Use 'shall' or 'will' in following blanks.

- (i) He _____ not come tomorrow.
- (ii) You _____ be fined for speeding.
- (iii) She _____ be here for lectures.
- (iv) Rajan _____ be going there tomorrow.
- (v) What _____ happen now?
- (vi) He _____ be the best teacher.
- (vii) She _____ be banned for her misbehaviour
- (viii) She _____ not do it today.
- (ix) You _____ be blamed for such mistake.
- (x) He _____ start journey tonight.

Answer:

- (i) 'will
- (ii) shall
- (iii) will
- (iv) will
- (v) will
- (vi) will
- (vii) shall
- (viii) will
- (ix) 'will
- (x) will

Question 2.

Fill in the blanks.

- (i) You _____ follow the rules.

- (ii) She _____ start her preparations soon.
- (iii) It _____ not happen soon.
- (iv) You _____ not try to do this.
- (v) Go now lest you _____ report late.
- (vi) She _____ open the door.
- (vii) He _____ have returned by this time.
- (viii) You _____ stop doing such activities.
- (ix) This glass _____ be handled with care.
- (x) Run fast lest you _____ be late.

Answer:

- (i) Should
- (ii) will
- (iii) may
- (iv) should
- (v) should
- (vi) will
- (vii) must
- (viii) should
- (ix) should
- (x) should

Question 1.

Find the modal verbs in the word search below instruction. Words can be found forward, backward, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

H	w	E	L	H	X	C	Y	A	G	J	Y	K	D	F
M	I	K	S	A	B	Q	A	D	W	H	A	D	G	C
E	L	A	G	D	M	A	Y	T	E	H	B	I	V	A
P	L	M	U	J	X	P	O	F	Y	S	Z	A	L	N

E	D	O	P	G	E	W	C	V	S	H	A	L	L	A
Z	X	B	G	O	D	K	C	A	L	O	B	E	T	H
A	S	O	P	D	G	A	B	J	E	U	V	O	Y	L
I	B	E	H	T	F	F	U	U	L	L	H	G	U	O
K	T	S	A	D	L	U	O	w	M	D	D	P	M	A
E	H	R	G	E	R	A	s	M	A	E	T	S	U	U
A	G	T	H	A	L	B	G	I	T	B	E	H	S	T
O	I	P	K	C	B	Y	P	P	H	A	H	G	T	D
Y	M	U	O	I	R	G	L	I	G	P	A	E	R	A
H	T	B	E	E	S	U	O	Y	U	E	V	A	H	M
E	N	E	W	R	O	D	L	U	O	C	T	U	T	S

S	C	V	O	Y	T	D	D	I	H	T	F	Z	A	L
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The words are as follows.

- will – can
- would – shall
- should – must
- could – might
- may – ought

Question 2.

Choose the correct option.

- (i) They _____ be on holiday, but I'm not sure. (can, may)
- (ii) You _____ be right, but I'd still like to check. (can, could)
- (iii) _____ you turn it down a bit, please? (can, may)
- (iv) It's Ok – you go when you've finished. (may, might)
- (v) Ask any questions now as you _____ not talk during the test. (may, could)