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MODAL VERBS: STRUCTURE & USE

What are modal verbs?

- Can
- Could
- May
- Might
- Must
- Shall
- Should
- Ought to
- Will
- Would

They are Auxiliary verbs that provide additional and specific meaning to the main verb of the sentence





There is no "s" in singular There is no "do / does" in the question There is no "don't / doesn't" in the negative

- He can ski
 He cans ski or He can skis
- Would you like to come with me?

Do you would like to come with me?

They can't be serious

They don't can be serious







Categories

Single concept Modals	Double Concept Modals	Modals in Past
Will Might Should Ought to Had better	May Must Would Shall Could Can	Would have Could have Might have Should have May have Must have

Single Concept Modal

WillFutureJoe will travel to NY next weekMightSmall probabilityI might move to Canada some dayShouldRecommendationYou should go to the doctorOught toFormal recommendationWe ought to know about first aidsHad betterWarningI had better study or I will fail the test	MightSmall probabilityI might move to Canada some dayShouldRecommendationYou should go to the doctorOught toFormal recommendationWe ought to know about first aids	Modal	Concept	Examples
Should Recommendation You should go to the doctor Ought to Formal recommendation We ought to know about first aids	Should Recommendation You should go to the doctor Ought to Formal recommendation We ought to know about first aids	Will	Future	Joe will travel to NY next week
Ought to Formal recommendation We ought to know about first aids	Ought to Formal recommendation We ought to know about first aids	Might	Small probability	I might move to Canada some day
		Should	Recommendation	You should go to the doctor
Had better Warning I had better study or I will fail the test	Had better Warning I had better study or I will fail the test	Ought to	Formal recommendation	We ought to know about first aids
		Had better	Warning	I had better study or I will fail the test

Double Concept Modal

Modal	Concept	Examples
May (1)	Permission	May I come in?
May (2)	Good probability	We may visit Mexico this summer
Must (1)	Responsibility	Everyone must pay taxes
Must (2)	Assumption	She didn't arrive. She must be sick
Would (1)	Past (used to)	When I was young, I would play soccer
Would (2)	Present unreal	I would buy the car but I can't afford it

Double Concept Modal

Modal	Concept	Examples
Shall (1)	Educated expression Offer	Excuse me, I shall go now Shall I clean it?
Shall (2)	Contractual obligation	The company shall pay on January 1st
Could (1)	Unreal Ability	I could go if I had time
Could (2)	Past Ability	She could play the piano (but she can't anymore)
Can (1)	Present Ability	We can speak English
Can (2)	Permission	Can I have a candy?

	PROBABILITY/ POSSIBILITY	ABILITY	PERMISSION	OBLIGATION/ ADVICE	OFFERS
CAN		l can play the piano	Can I go out tonight?		
CAN'T	She can't be his mum. She 's too young	I can't speak German	Can I borrow the car? No, I can't.		
MIGHT	It might rain tomorrow				
COULD	It could rain tomorrow	l could already read when I was two	Could I see your passport please, sir?		
MAY	It may rain tomoroww		May I leave the table?		
MUST	She must be his sister because they look alike.			You must leave before the clock strikes twelve.	
HAVE TO				I have to study tonight.	
SHALL				You shall pay on Tuesday	Shall I help you?
SHOULD / OUGHT TO				You should see it. It's excellent.	
HAD BETTER				You had better sleep more.	
WOULD					Would you like a drink?

Moda	als in the Past	
They a	are modals referred to actions that	
-	ened in the past	
	MODAL + HAVE + verb in past participle	
lt mus	st have been a difficult decision	
They s	should have invited her to their wedding	

MODAL PERFECT	USES	EXAMPLES
MUST HAVE + P.P.	Logical conclusion on a past event	Peter has arrived late. He <u>must</u> <u>have been</u> in a traffic jam
MAY / MIGHT HAVE + P.P.	Deduction on a past event	Joe <u>may / might have taken</u> the wrong train.
COULD HAVE + P.P.	Possibility to do something, gone unfulfilled	You <u>could have played</u> better
COULDN'T HAVE + P.P.	Certainty that something couldn't have happened	He <u>couldn't have passed</u> because you hadn't studied enough
WOULD HAVE + P.P.	Desire to do something, but impossibility to do it for external causes	I <u>would have visited</u> you, but I forgot your address
SHOULD / OUGHT TO HAVE + P.P.	Lament on something that should have been done	You <u>should / ought to have</u> <u>warned</u> me earlier
Shouldn't have + p.p.	Critique on something that shouldn't have happened	He <u>shouldn't have told</u> them
NEEDN'T HAVE + P.P.	Somthing that wasn't necessary doing	You <u>needn't have bought</u> it .

Modals-like verbs:

A few verbs which often serve as modals too. They need to be conjugated.

Modal	Concept	Example
Like to	Enjoy	I like to watch TV
Want to	Desire	John wants to buy a car
Need to	Necessity	We really needed to talk to you
Have to	Obligation	Susan had to pay the rent
Have got to	Have to	I've got to go now
Look forward to	Future plan	I look forward to see ing you again

Practise			
1. My son be	e home by now. N	Where can he be?	
a. Have to	b. would	c.should	d. could
2. I think your t	humb is broken.	You go to the	emergency room.
a. Might	b. could	c)ought to	d. can
3. If you are int	erested in losing	g weight, you	try this new diet.
a.Could	b. mustn't	c. don't have to	d. had to
4. John's fallen	down the stairs	l I call a	n ambulance!
a.Will	b. might	c. may	d. ought to
5. You	come too early.	We won't leave un	til 9 o'clock.
a. Has to	b. must	c)needn't	d. can't





More practise

- Re-write the following sentences using modals so that they have the same meaning.
- 1. I suggest that you get a good lawyer!

You <u>should get a lawyer</u>

2. A university degree isn't necessary for that job.

You needn't have a university degree for that job don't have to have a university...

3. Perhaps my father will pick you up.

My father <u>may / might pick you up</u>

4. 4. Eating is forbidden in class!

You <u>mustn't eat in class</u>

More practise

- Re-write the following sentences using modals so that they have the same meaning.
- 5. Look at his dirty clothes! I'm sure he is a poor person.
 - He must be a poor person
- 6. I don't believe that the legend of Hercules is true because there are many contradictions.

The legend of Hercules <u>can't be true</u>

Use your imagination

- Think about these situations and create a sentence using modals.
- We are going to Paris for a weekend. (Make suggestions about things to do)
- 2. We start school in September. (Talk about necessity)
- 3. Margaret is a very talented sportswoman. (Talk about ability)
- 4. You have just won the lottery! (Talk about possibility)
- 5. Peter has got a headache and a congested nose. (Give him some advice)
- 6. You want to borrow your uncle's Mercedes Benz. (Ask for permission politely)

