

MODALS

Modals are auxiliary verbs that help express necessity, possibility, ability, permission, requests, and offers.

They are used with the base form of the main verb.

Common Modal Verbs

Can

Could

May

Might

Shall

Should

Will

Would

Must

Ought to

Expressing Ability (Can, Could)

Modals for Ability

Can: Expresses ability in the present or future.

Example: *I can speak Spanish.*

Could: Expresses ability in the past.

Example: *She could swim when she was a child.*

Expressing Permission (**Can, May, Might**)

Can: Informal permission.

Example: *Can I go to the restroom?*

May: More formal permission.

Example: *May I borrow your book?*

Might: Polite or tentative permission.

Example: *Might I suggest a new idea?*

Expressing Obligation (Must, Have to, Should)

Must: Strong obligation.

Example: *You must wear a helmet.*

Have to: Less forceful than "must."

Example: *I have to finish my homework.*

Should: Mild obligation or advice.

Example: *You should eat more vegetables.*

Expressing Possibility and Probability

(Can, Could, May, Might)

Can: General possibility.

Example: *It can be very hot in the desert.*

Could: Tentative or past possibility.

Example: *It could rain tomorrow.*

May: Likely possibility.

Example: *She may come to the party.*

Might: Less certain possibility.

Example: *They might cancel the event.*

Modals for Offers and Suggestions (Shall, Will, Should)

Shall: Formal offer or suggestion.

Example: *Shall I open the window?*

Will: Informal offer or willingness.

Example: *I will help you with that.*

Should: Suggestion or advice.

Example: *You should take a break.*

Modals for Hypothetical Situations (Would, Could)

Title: Modals for Hypothetical Situations

Would: Expresses hypothetical or polite requests.

Example: *I would go if I had the time.*

Could: Expresses hypothetical ability or possibility.

Example: *He could become a great artist.*

Modals for Advice (Should, Ought to)

Should: General advice or recommendation.

Example: *You should see a doctor.*

Ought to: Similar to "should," but a little more formal.

Example: *You ought to apologize.*

Recap of Modals

Can / Could: Ability, possibility

May / Might: Permission, possibility

Must / Have to: Obligation

Shall / Will: Offers, willingness

Should / Ought to: Advice