



## What are modal verbs?:

**Modals** are auxiliary verbs that provide additional and specific meaning (mode and manner) to the main verb of the sentence. They can express modes such as: permission, necessity, ability...etc

The most commonly used modals are: **Can, May, Could, Would, Have to, Must, Might, Will, Should** and **Shall**.

## Modals are used to:

**1. Express ability:** can and could.

i.e: I **can** play football very well

**2. Ask for permission:** may, can and could.

i.e: **May** I ask a question, please?

**Can** I go home now ?

**Could** I open the window ?

**3. Make a request:** can, could and would.

i.e: **Can** you lend me your book?

**Could** you please bring me more coffee ?

**Would** you please turn on the light?

**4. Make an offer:** would and can.

i.e: **Can** I do something for you ?.

**Would** you like some coffee ?

**5. Mak a conditional sentences:** would

**i.e:** If I had a car, I **would** drive around the world.

**6. Give advice or suggestion:** should.

**i.e:** You **should** have brought an umbrella.

**7. Express a possibility:** may, might and could.

**i.e:** It **might** rain during the night.

I **may** not join them later.

He **could** be lost.

**8. Express necessity or obligation:** must and have to.

**i.e:** We **must** slow down while driving in front of primary school.

I **have to** submit my project before sunday.

**9. Express a promise or intention:** will and shall.

**i.e:** I promise that I **will** write to you every single day.

I **shall** go to the store.

**10. Express a prohibition:** must or should + not.

**i.e:** You **must not** drink alcohol.

You **should not** open the oven while the cake is baking.

**11. Express a wish:** may

**i.e:** **May** all your wishes come true!.

## Important points:

- **Modals** do not need to match their subject in plural agreement, so there is no need to add an “s” ending to the modal.

**i.e:** He **can** learn.

They **can** learn.

- **Modals** can be used alone as an answer to a question.

**i.e: Q: Can** you sing ?

**Q: Will** you come?

**A: I can.**

**A: I will.**

- **Modals**, when joined with “**not**” to form a negative form, can be contracted.

**i.e: I can not** run. → **I can’t** run.

- **Modals** come before infinitive verbs and the “**to**” is removed.

## Exercise: Fill in the blank with correct modals.

1. I \_\_\_\_ arrange the flowers for the bouquet. (may/can)
2. \_\_\_\_ I borrow this pen from you? (may/might)
3. The teacher \_\_\_\_ ask you to bring the homework. (might/can)
4. According to the weather forecast, it \_\_\_\_ snow heavily tomorrow. (may/shall)
5. Raj hasn’t studied well. He \_\_\_\_ fail his exam. (might/shall)
6. You \_\_\_\_ follow the traffic rules. (may/must)
7. It \_\_\_\_ be difficult to live amidst war. (should/must)
8. My mother \_\_\_\_ scold me if I don’t go back on time. (will/may)
9. I \_\_\_\_ visit the local grocery store soon. (shall/can)
10. You \_\_\_\_ be punctual. (should/ought)
11. One \_\_\_\_ repay all their debts. (must/ought to)
12. The child \_\_\_\_ be taken to hospital immediately. (must/might)
13. \_\_\_\_ you have hot chocolate? (shall/will)

