

Modal verbs

- Modals are auxiliaries
- They have no infinitive
- They are followed by an infinitive without « to »
- They don't take « s » with he /she/it
- They don't need do/does or did in the negative and interrogative forms
- Can – May – Will – Must – Could – Might – Would – Should

Affirmative form	Negative form	Interrogative form
She <u>can</u> sing They <u>will</u> come tomorrow He <u>must</u> inform us We <u>may</u> visit him today You <u>should</u> work harder I <u>could</u> do better than that She <u>might</u> be late again	She <u>cannot</u> sing They <u>will not</u> come tomorrow He <u>mustn't</u> inform us We <u>may not</u> visit him today You <u>should not</u> work harder I <u>could not</u> do better than that She <u>mightn't</u> be late again	Can she sing ? Will they come tomorrow? Must he inform us? May we visit him today? Should you work harder? Could I do better than that? Might she be late again?

Can /Could:

The modals can and could express:

-Ability:

- 1-I can speak French (i am able to speak French)
- 2-He could run fast when he was younger (He was able to run fast when he was young)

-Permission/asking for something:

- 1-Can you lend me your car, please?
- 2-Could I borrow some money?
- 3-Could you show me the way to the post office, please?

Possibility concerning a past event:

We use it to say that we had the possibility or the opportunity to do something in the past but we didn't do it

- 1-He could have took part in the competition
- 2-She could have been hurt

Must / Have to or Had to

An obligation concerning a present or a past fact

- 1-I must work hard to succeed
- 2-I have to work hard to succeed

3-I had to cancel the meeting yesterday (past)

A strong probability about present or past situation

- 1-He must be rich, he has 4 cars
- *2-She must be British, she speaks English very well
- 3-They must have had an accident, they have not come back yet

To express A prohibition:

- 1-You mustn't park your car here (it is forbidden)
- 2-You mustn't smoke in this area (it is not allowed)

May/Might

To express Permission:

- 1-May I leave now?
- 2-She asked me if she might leave

To express an eventuality:

- 1-It may rain this afternoon
- 2-It might rain this afternoon