

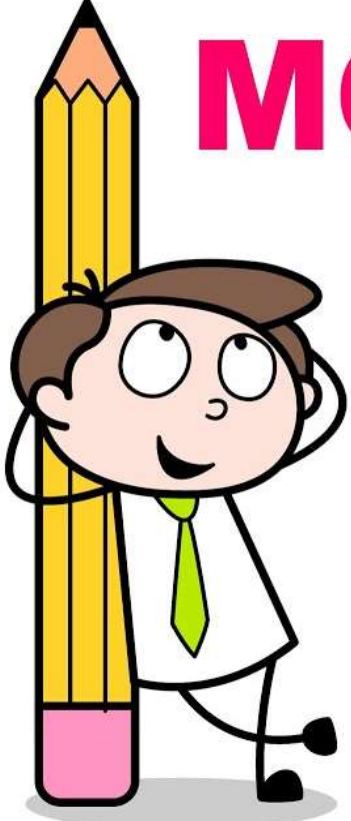
MODAL VERBS

Definition of Modal Verbs-

Modal verbs are helping verbs (auxiliary verbs) that is used with the main verb to express the **mood, ability, possibility, necessity, permission, or obligation** of the action.

COMMON MODAL VERBS-

- ▶ Can, Could, May, Might, Shall, Should, Will, Would, Must, Ought to, Used to, Need, Dare



MODAL Verbs

English Speaking 360

How to use:

-Can	-Could
-May	-Might
-Must	-Should
-Will	-Would

Uses of Modal Verbs-

▶ 1. CAN-

▶ **Use:** To show ability, permission and request(informal).

▶ Examples:

- ▶ 1. I can swim very fast. (ability)
- ▶ 2. You can take my book. (permission)
- ▶ 3. He can speak three languages.
- ▶ 4. Can you help me?
- ▶ 5. Can I go out now?



▶ 2. Could -

- ▶ **Use:** To show past ability or make polite requests.
- ▶ **Examples:** 1. I could swim when I was five. (past ability)
- ▶ 2. Could you pass me the salt? (polite request)
- ▶ 3. He could run very fast in his youth.

Modal Verbs: Permission **could**

Asking for permission:
Could I sit here?



▶ **3.May -**

▶ **Use:** To show polite permission and request(formal), to show possibility, used to express wish or good wishes.

▶ **Examples:**

- ▶ 1. May I come in, sir? (permission)
- ▶ 2. You may go now.
- ▶ 3. It may rain tomorrow. (possibility)
- ▶ 4. He may pass the exam.
- ▶ 5. May god bless you!



▶ **4. Might**

▶ :“Might” is a modal verb used to express possibility, permission , suggestion, or uncertainty.It is the past form of “may”.

▶ **Examples-**

▶ 1. It might rain today.(possibility)

▶ 2. She might come to the party.

▶ 3. You might want to see the doctor.(Advice)

▶ 4. She might have come to the party.(past of may)

▶ **Difference Between “May” and “Might” (in Possibility)**

▶ It may rain today. (50–70% chance)

▶ It might rain today. (30–40% chance)

▶ **5.Must –**

- ▶ Use: 1.To show something is necessary or compulsory.
- ▶ 2.Prohibition(to show something is not allowed)
- ▶ Examples:1. You must wear a helmet.
- ▶ 2. Students must respect their teachers.
- ▶ 3. We must obey traffic rules.
- ▶ 4. You must not lie.
- 5. I must finish my homework now.



▶ **6. Will –**

▶ **Use:** To show future action or strong intention.

▶ **Examples:**

▶ 1. I will call you tomorrow.

▶ 2. She will win the race.

▶ 3. I will never give up.

▶ **7. Shall –**

▶ **Use:** Used to express future actions, suggestions, rules — mostly with “I” and “we.”

▶ **Examples**

▶ 1. I shall go tomorrow.

▶ 2. Students shall obey rules.

▶ 3. The tenant shall pay rent monthly.

▶ 8. Should -

- ▶ **Use:** To give advice, suggestion, or show duty.
- ▶ **Examples:** 1. You should study daily.
- ▶ 2. We should help the poor.
- ▶ 3. You should eat healthy food.
- ▶ 4. He should work hard for success.
- ▶ 5. You should apologize for your mistake.

Used for urgent work or moral duty.

Examples:

- You should help the poor
- I should reach the school in time.





You have runny nose.
You SHOULD blow your nose.



He feels tired.
He SHOULD have a rest.

▶ 9. WOULD -

▶ Uses of “Would”

- ▶ 1. Polite request or offer, Imaginary condition

Examples-

- ▶ 1. Would you like some tea? (polite offer)
- ▶ 2. Would you help me, please? (polite request)
- ▶ 4. If I were rich, I would buy a car. (imaginary situation)

HOT TIP
You can use 'would' instead of 'could'.

would - conditional

'Would' is used for conditionals.
The structure is: would + infinitive (second conditional)

If I had more money, I would give it to you.

▶ **10. OUGHT TO –**

▶ Uses of “Ought to”

▶ 1. Moral duty or obligation 2. Advice or suggestion 3.

▶ **Examples-**

▶ 1. You ought to respect your parents. (moral duty)

▶ 2. We ought to help the needy. (moral duty)

▶ 3. You ought to study harder. (advice)

4. You ought to be polite to elders. (advice)

▶ 5. Everyone ought to follow the law. (obligation)

▶ **Note: “Ought to” is similar to “should,” but it sounds stronger and more moral.**

▶ **11. USED TO –**

- ▶ ‘Used to’ is a modal that shows a past habit or past state.(It tells what happened regularly in the past but not now.)
 - ▶ 1. He used to smoke, but now he doesn’t.
 - ▶ 2. We used to visit our grandparents every summer.
 - ▶ 3. They used to go to school by bus.
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▶ Comparison of May, Could, Would (for requests)

- ▶ :May – used to ask permission formally. (May I come in?)
- ▶ Could – used for a very polite or indirect request. (Could you help me, please?)
- ▶ Would – used for a polite and friendly request. (Would you open the door?).