

MODALS

DEFINITION

Modals are a special group of auxiliary verbs used to express certain meanings like permission, ability, possibility, suggestion, promise, intention, request, prohibition, necessity and wish. Modals help to express the mood or attitude of the speaker.

- The most commonly used modals are: **can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, must, ought to, dare.**

REMEMBER:

- Modals are not complete verbs. They cannot stand alone. They must be followed by a main verb.
- Modals have only one form which they never change.

THE TYPES OF MODALS ARE:-

1. Modals of Ability
2. Modals of permission
3. Modals of possibility
4. Modals of advice, suggestion and obligations
5. Modals of request
6. Modals of prohibition
7. Modals of Promise
8. Modals of Compulsion/ Necessity
9. Modals of wish
10. Modals of dare

<u>Function</u>	Modals	Uses	Examples
<u>Ability</u>	Can	To indicate an ability to do something. Be capable of, know how to	Jaya can play the flute. Ravi can paint very well.
	Could	To indicate a past ability.	I could do somersaults in my childhood
	Be able to	To indicate an ability to do something (which is more possible than Can)	He will be able to reach home in time for the function. Niraj was able to speak Korean fluently.

<u>Function</u>	Modals	Uses	Examples
<u>Permission</u>	May	To ask for a normal permission politely.	May I leave now?
	Can	To ask for an informal permission.	Can I borrow your phone to make a call?
	Could	To ask for a formal permission (More polite than May) to suggest a formal permission in the past.	Could you get me a glass of water? The teacher told me that I could take a leave on Friday.

<u>Function</u>	Modals	Uses	Examples
<u>Possibility</u>	May	To indicate a good possibility.	She may find time to help you with your homework.
	Might	To indicate weak possibility.	Fatima might work till late night.
	Can	To indicate a general and occasional possibility.	I can come with you to the party tonight.

	Could	To indicate a very weak possibility.	Sameer could participate in the marathon with some encouragement.
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<u>Function</u>	Modals	Uses	Examples
<u>Suggestion</u>	Should	To give an advice or suggestion.	You should use a different colour here. People should not litter in public places.
<u>Moral Obligation</u>	Ought to	To convey a sense of Moral duty or suggesting the right way to do something (it is a little stronger than should)	You ought to respect your elders. You ought to exercise daily to remain healthy

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Request	Will	To make polite request.	Will you carry this bag for me, please?
	Would	To make request more polite than will .	Would you switch off the fan, please?
	Won't	To make a request	Won't you get something to drink?
	Can	To make an informal request.	Can I have some more biscuits?
	Could	To make a polite request when it is uncertain whether it will be accepted or not.	Mother, could you buy me that dress, please?

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Prohibition	Must not	To indicate that something should not be done because it is a rule.	Students must not leave the classroom without the permission of the teacher.
	Ought not to	To indicate that something should not be done because it is a duty.	You ought not to laugh at others for their weaknesses.

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Promise	Will	To suggest a promise or intention.	I will attend your birthday party before leaving for Jaipur. I will transfer the money to your account.
	Shall	To suggest a promise or intention.	You shall receive my letter tomorrow. They shall get their dues by the end of this week.

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Compulsion/ Necessity	Must	To express an internal compulsion (authority comes from the speaker.)	We must save something for the future.
	Have to	To suggest an external compulsion (authority comes from outside the speaker.)	My mother is not well. I have to go and get medicines.
	Have got to	To suggest an external compulsion (authority comes from outside the speaker.)	We have got to finish the packing by

		comes from outside the speaker but it is more informal.)	evening.
	Had to	As the past form of must.	I had to stay back in office last evening to finish the work.
	Will have to	As the future form of must.	I will have to pay the penalty for breaking the antique vase.

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Wish	May	To express a wish	May all your dreams come true! May God bless you with health, wealth and success!

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Bold assertion	Dare	To express that one is not afraid to do something. (It is mostly used in negative sentences and in questions.)	Do you dare to challenge him to a race? I dare say you are a fool.

Function	Modals	Uses	Examples
Afraid	Daren't	To express that one is afraid to do something.	I dare not follow you.

to do			He dare not do it.
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