

Modals

- Modals are helping verbs
- Used with the base form of the verb, modals create verbal phrases.
- Modals do not change form.
- Modals never end in "s" even in 3rd person singular
- Use "not" to make modal verbs negative.
- Don't use double modals.
- Modals lack past tense forms, except **could** and **would** which serve as the past of **can** and **will**.

Can	present ability - I <i>can</i> ride a bike. opportunity - She <i>can</i> help you learn to ride a bike, when she is finished studying. permission - <i>Can</i> I try to ride the bike now? possibility and conditional - Anyone <i>can</i> learn to ride a bike, <i>if</i> they are not afraid to try. request - <i>Can</i> you teach me to ride a bike? willingness - I <i>can</i> teach you.
Could	past ability - I <i>could</i> ride a bike when I was younger. conditional - He <i>could</i> learn to ride a two wheeler, <i>if</i> his father removes the training wheels. possibility - Bill <i>could</i> be the best bike rider with some more practice. suggestion - Mark <i>could</i> ride his bike to campus, instead of driving his car. request - <i>Could</i> I use your bike?
May	polite request or permission - <i>May</i> I borrow your bike? possibility - He <i>may</i> be able to help you assemble the bike tomorrow.
Might	possibility, but not certainty - I <i>might</i> be able to let you borrow the bike, after I put air in the tires. conditional - This bike <i>might</i> be a good choice for cross country riding, <i>if</i> the seat is comfortable. suggestion - You <i>might</i> want to lower the seat, so that your legs reach the pedals.
Must	strong obligation - You <i>must</i> return the bike, if you use it. necessity - I <i>must</i> ride my bike to get my exercise. • Substitute must with "have to" - You <i>have to</i> return the bike, if you use it.
Shall	formal invitation and future action. - Shall we go bike riding together tomorrow?
Should	mild obligation, recommendation, advice - You <i>should</i> wear a helmet when you ride a bike. expectation - He <i>should</i> finish the race around noon. • Substitute should with "ought to" - You <i>ought to</i> wear a helmet when you ride a bike.
Will	future intent - I <i>will</i> go riding on Saturday. promise - We <i>will</i> definitely make time to ride together next weekend. prediction - The weatherman, however, reports that the winds <i>will</i> be strong. voluntary action - I <i>will</i> go anyway.
Would	conditional - I <i>would</i> ride the bike at night, <i>if</i> it had a light. past of will - He <i>would</i> ride his bike before he hurt his knee.

Use the base form of the word with the modal. Modals do not change form.

- He could **ride** for long distances. (correct) He could **rode** for long distances. (incorrect)

Modals never end in "s" even in the third person singular.

- She **should** peddle slower. (correct) She **shoulds** peddles slower. (incorrect)

Combine the base form of the verb with the modals - not with the infinitive "to."

- He should ride with traffic. (correct) He should to ride with traffic. (incorrect)

Use "not" to make modal verbs negative.

- I **cannot** ride a bike.
- I **could not** ride a bike because I was afraid of falling.
- I **may not** be riding next weekend because I have to work extra hours.
- She **might not** have a new bike, but it gets her where she needs to go.
- Bike riders under 17 years of age **must not** ride without helmets in Pennsylvania.
- Riders **shall not** break the traffic rules that apply to cars.
- When using hand signals to indicate turning, riders **should not** use their right arm.
- He **will not** go riding when it rains.
- The bike club **would not** participate in the race because they objected to the high entrance fee.

To form questions:

- **Can** I teach you how to ride a bike?
- **Should** we ask your mother first?
- **Might** it help if I let her know that you'll be wearing a helmet?
- **Will** you let me take the training wheels off?

Do not use double modals.

- He **could can** fix the flat tire.
- I **will might** enter the bicycle challenge marathon.

Practice: Circle the best modal.

- He **can/ would** ride his bike when his car broke down.
- Bob **should not/ may not** ride down the middle of the busy road.
- **Might you/ could you** repair my broken wheel?
- My mother always said, "You **could/should** wear a helmet to protect your head."
- **May/ can** I borrow your bike?
- I **must/ can** return the bike to the rental shop by 5 o'clock this evening.
- **Shall/ should we** take a tire patch kit with us to make repairs?

	PROBABILITY/ POSSIBILITY	ABILITY	PERMISSION	OBLIGATION/ ADVICE	OFFERS
CAN		I can play the piano	Can I go out tonight?		
CAN'T	She can't be his mum. She's too young	I can't speak German	Can I borrow the car? No, I can't.		
MIGHT	It might rain tomorrow				
COULD	It could rain tomorrow	I could already read when I was two	Could I see your passport please, sir?		
MAY	It may rain tomorrow		May I leave the table?		
MUST	She must be his sister because they look alike.			You must leave before the clock strikes twelve.	
HAVE TO				I have to study tonight.	
SHALL				You shall pay on Tuesday	Shall I help you?
SHOULD / OUGHT TO				You should see it. It's excellent.	
HAD BETTER				You had better sleep more.	
WOULD					Would you like a drink?

Modals-like verbs:

A few verbs which often serve as **modals** too.
They need to be conjugated.

Modal	Concept	Example
Like to	Enjoy	I like to watch TV
Want to	Desire	John wants to buy a car
Need to	Necessity	We really needed to talk to you
Have to	Obligation	Susan had to pay the rent
Have got to	Have to	I've got to go now
Look forward to	Future plan	I look forward to seeing you again

Modals in the Past

- They are modals referred to actions that happened in the past

MODAL + HAVE + verb in past participle

It **must have been** a difficult decision

They **should have invited** her to their wedding

MODAL PERFECT	USES	EXAMPLES
MUST HAVE + P.P.	Logical conclusion on a past event	Peter has arrived late. He <u>must have been</u> in a traffic jam
MAY / MIGHT HAVE + P.P.	Deduction on a past event	Joe <u>may / might have taken</u> the wrong train.
COULD HAVE + P.P.	Possibility to do something, gone unfulfilled	You <u>could have played</u> better
COULDN'T HAVE + P.P.	Certainty that something couldn't have happened	He <u>couldn't have passed</u> because you hadn't studied enough
WOULD HAVE + P.P.	Desire to do something, but impossibility to do it for external causes	I <u>would have visited</u> you, but I forgot your address
SHOULD / OUGHT TO HAVE + P.P.	Lament on something that should have been done	You <u>should / ought to have warned</u> me earlier
SHOULDN'T HAVE + P.P.	Critique on something that shouldn't have happened	He <u>shouldn't have told</u> them
NEEDN'T HAVE + P.P.	Something that wasn't necessary doing	You <u>needn't have bought</u> it .

Single Concept Modal

Modal	Concept	Examples
Will	Future	Joe will travel to NY next week
Might	Small probability	I might move to Canada some day
Should	Recommendation	You should go to the doctor
Ought to	Formal recommendation	We ought to know about first aids
Had better	Warning	I had better study or I will fail the test

Double Concept Modal

Modal	Concept	Examples
May (1)	Permission	May I come in?
May (2)	Good probability	We may visit Mexico this summer
Must (1)	Responsibility	Everyone must pay taxes
Must (2)	Assumption	She didn't arrive. She must be sick
Would (1)	Past (used to)	When I was young, I would play soccer
Would (2)	Present unreal	I would buy the car but I can't afford it