

□ What Are Modals?

Modals are **helping verbs** (also called auxiliary verbs) used with the main verb to show:

- Ability
- Permission
- Possibility
- Obligation
- Advice
- Necessity
- Probability
- Request

☐ Rules of Modals

1. Modals are always followed by the base form of the verb.

- ☐ Correct: She **can go**.
- ☐ Wrong: She **can goes**.

2. Modals do not change with subjects.

- ☐ I **can** swim.
- ☐ He **can** swim.
- ☐ They **can** swim.

(Same "can" for all subjects)

3. Modals do not use "-s", "-ed", or "-ing" forms.

- ☐ He **should go** now.
- ☐ He **should goes** now.

☐ Use of Each Modal with Easy Examples

☐ 1. Can – Ability / Permission

- I **can** lift this box. (ability)
- **Can** I use your pen? (permission)

☐ 2. Could – Past ability / Polite request

- I **could** swim when I was five.
- **Could** you help me, please?

☐ 3. May – Permission / Possibility

- **May** I come in? (asking permission)
- It **may** rain today. (possibility)

□ 4. **Might – Weak possibility**

- He **might** be at the library.

□ 5. **Shall – Future / Suggestion (formal)**

- I **shall** return tomorrow.
- **Shall** we go for a walk?

□ 6. **Should – Advice / Moral duty**

- You **should** eat healthy food.
- Students **should** respect teachers.

□ 7. **Will – Future / Promise / Determination**

- I **will** call you later. (future)
- I **will** never lie. (promise)

□ 8. **Would – Request / Past habit**

- **Would** you like some tea?
- He **would** go to the park every day. (past habit)

□ 9. **Must – Strong obligation / Necessity**

- You **must** wear a seatbelt.
- We **must** finish our homework

⚖ 10. **Ought to – Moral duty / Advice**

- You **ought to** help your friends.
- We **ought to** follow rules.

□ 11. **Need – Necessity (usually in negative/question)**

- You **need not** come today.
- **Need** I finish this now?

□ 12. Dare – Challenge or courage (formal/literary)

- **Dare** he say that to the teacher?
- He **dared not** speak.

13. Used to – Past habit

- I **used to** play football every evening.

□ Quick Revision Table

Modal	Use	Example
Can	Ability, permission	I can swim.
Could	Past ability, polite request	Could you help me?
May	Permission, possibility	May I leave early?
Might	Weak possibility	It might rain.
Shall	Future, suggestion	Shall we dance?
Should	Advice, duty	You should study.
Will	Future, promise	I will call you.
Would	Polite request, past habit	Would you like some tea?
Must	Strong necessity, rule	You must obey.
Ought to	Moral duty	You ought to be honest.
Need	Necessity (neg./question)	Need I explain more?
Dare	Courage (formal use)	Dare he oppose me?
Used to	Habit in the past	I used to visit grandma often.

Modal Verb	Formula	Example	Usage / Meaning
Can	Sub + can + V ¹ + Obj	I can swim.	Ability or possibility
Could	Sub + could + V ¹ + Obj	She could sing well when she was young.	Past ability or polite request
May	Sub + may + V ¹ + Obj	You may go now.	Permission or possibility
Might	Sub + might + V ¹ + Obj	It might rain	Weak possibility
Must	Sub + must + V ¹ + Obj	You must wear a helmet.	Strong necessity or obligation
Shall	Sub + shall + V ¹ + Obj	We shall meet again.	Future intention (formal)
Should	Sub + should + V ¹ + Obj	You should study daily.	Advice or suggestion
Will	Sub + will + V ¹ + Obj	I will call you tomorrow.	Future plan or decision
Would	Sub + would + V ¹ + Obj	He would travel a lot.	Polite offer, past habit, or imagination
Ought to	Sub + ought to + V ¹ + Obj	You ought to respect elders.	Moral duty or responsibility
Need to	Sub + need to + V ¹ + Obj	You need to work harder.	Necessity or requirement
Used to	Sub + used to + V ¹ + Obj	I used to play cricket.	Past habit or discontinued action