

COMMUNICATIVE GRAMMAR

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MODAL VERBS

Type	Modal Verbs	Examples
ABILITY	Can, Could	- David can speak three languages. - He could speak fluent French when he was 5.
PERMISSION	Can, Could, May	- Can I sit in that chair please? - Could I open the window? - May I borrow your dictionary?
ADVICE	Should	- You should visit your dentist at least twice a year. - You should try to lose weight.
OBLIGATION	Must, Have to	- I must memorize all of these rules about tenses. - You have to take off your shoes before you get into the mosque.
POSSIBILITY	Might, May, Could, Can	- It looks nice, but it might be very expensive. - Richard may be coming to see us tomorrow.



Ten Things You Need To Know About Modal Verbs

1. There are 10 Modal Verbs

Must May Might Can Could Should Shall Will Would Ought to

Modal Verbs in English pramova

What are modal verbs?

Modal verbs are special verbs that help express a speaker's attitude or opinion. They can also be used to express obligation, permission, ability, possibility, and probability. Modal verbs are also called "helping verbs" because they help to express a mood or attitude.

Types of modal verbs

Auxiliary Modal Verbs used to express the attitude or opinion can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might	Perfect Modal Verbs used to express the past attitudes or opinions could have, would have, should have, might have	Probability Modal Verbs used to express opinion about the probability of smth. happening may, might, must
Permission Modal Verbs used to express the opinion about whether or not something is allowed can, may	Obligation Modal Verbs used to express the opinion about whether or not smth. is obligatory must, should	Possibility Modal Verbs used to express the opinion about the possibility of smth. happening can, could, may, might

List of modal verbs

- Can
- Could
- Will
- Would
- Shall
- Should
- May
- Might
- Must
- Ought
- Could have
- Would have
- Should have
- Might have

2. Modal verbs have no 's' form

Modal verbs have the same form for all the persons. This means we say:

I can

You can

He/she/it can

We can

You can

They can

3. Modal verbs are always followed by an infinitive

This means we say:

I must go

You must go

He/she/it must go (Not 'goes'!)

We must go

You must go

They must go

4. Modal verbs have no past simple or past participle forms.

I go

I go

To use a modal verb to talk about the past we sometimes use the auxiliary verb have followed by the past participle of the main verb:

I must have gone

She could have seen

They might have walked

PAST MODALS OF DEDUCTION			
MUST 90-100% sure it's TRUE	CAN'T 90-100% sure NOT true	MAY MIGHT 30-50% sure it's (or not) true	SHOULD OUGHT TO expected to be true
+ infinitive (present meaning) She must be in the garden. Look at their house. They must be rich.	+ infinitive (present meaning) She can't be his mother. She's too young. He's just left. He can't be too far.	+ infinitive (present meaning) He may/might take the next train. She may/might not be home yet.	+ infinitive (present meaning) He should be/ought to be at work now. It shouldn't be/ought not to be too far now.
+ HAVE + past participle (past meaning) She must have been in the garden when I called.	+ HAVE + past participle (past meaning) You can't have seen her. She was at home.	+ HAVE + past participle (past meaning) He may have taken a different train. He'll call. He might not have heard you.	+ HAVE + past participle (past meaning) You should have packed/ought to have packed your things. You're going to be late. You shouldn't have done/ought not to have done that. It was rude.
Use CAN'T (not MUSTN'T) He's just left. He can't be too far. (NOT mustn't be)	COULDN'T HAVE + past participle (also possible) You couldn't have seen her.	COULD also possible He could be hurt.	

5. Modal verbs come before the word *not* to form a negative meaning:
This means we say:

I must not go

You must not go

He/she/it must not go (Not 'goes'!)

We must not go

You must not go

They must not go

Note: We don't use do/did with modal verbs:

I must not go (not 'I go)

We could not read (not 'We read)

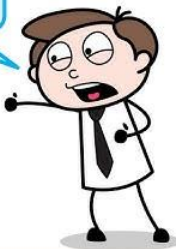
She might not come (not 'She come)

English Speaking 360

SEMI-MODAL VERBS

They are NOT modals!

- Have to
- Need to
- Ought to
- Used to
- Be going to
- Be able to
- Be allowed to
- Be supposed to
- Had better
- Would rather



6. Modal verbs (except *may*) have a negative contraction:

must – mustn't

might – mightn't

can – can't

could – couldn't

should – shouldn't

will – won't (not)

would – wouldn't

ought to – oughtn't to

may – may not (not)

7. Modal verbs come before the subject in 'yes/no' questions:

This means we say:

Can you come with us? (come with us?)

Should we bring something? (bring something?)

8. Modal verbs come before adverbs like *always, usually, also, even*:

This means we say:

You *should always* be polite.

She *can even* speak Chinese.

They *might also* live in Dublin.

9. Modal verbs come first in a *verb phrase*. A verb phrase is two or more words that make a verb structure.

For example:

I could not have gone.

We should start to cook.

10. Modal verbs are used in shortened sentences. These are normally responses to questions which use the same modal verb.

Question: Can anyone here speak German?

Response: I can.

Question: Could we meet at 10?

Response: No, we couldn't.