



Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Using Modal Verbs to
Indicate Possibility

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Using Modal Verbs to Indicate Possibility

Introductory Activity

Independent Focused Activity

Review Activity

Consolidation Activity

Assessment



Aim

- I can use modal verbs to say how likely something is to happen.

Success Criteria

- I can explain what a modal verb is.
- I can identify modal verbs in texts.
- I can use modal verbs in my own writing to describe exactly how likely something is to happen.

Introductory Activity



Modal Verbs



Have a look at the list opposite and see if you can think of a sentence that uses each possibility.

Write your sentences on a whiteboard.

I can... e.g. I can do a handstand

I could...

I may...

I might...

I will...

I would...

I must...

I should...

I ought to...



Share your answers with a partner.
Did you come up with any similar ideas?



Modal Verbs

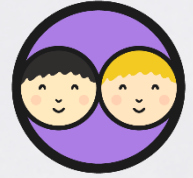
The words on the previous page are known as **modal verbs**.

Modal verbs work with another verb to describe how likely things are to happen or to what degree of certainty something is known.



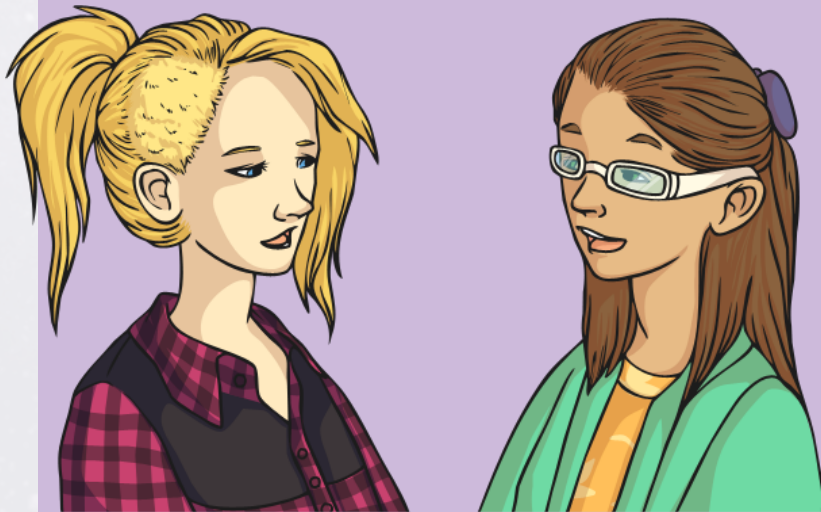
Because the **modal verb** is not the main verb in the sentence, it is sometimes called just the '**modal**' or the **auxiliary verb**.

Modal Verbs



Can you see any way to organise these **modal verbs** into smaller groups that have something in common?

Talk to a partner to help you decide and discuss why you are putting some words together.



might

may

could

will

would

must

should

ought to

can

Explain to the class why you have grouped them together.

Modal Verbs



How did you get on?

This is one possible way to organise these modal verbs.

These words indicate that something might or might not happen.

could

may

might

These words indicate that something needs to happen but still might not.

would

should

ought to

These words indicate a degree of certainty that something will happen.

will

can

must

Did you find any others?

Modal Verbs



You can also make **modal verbs** negative.

You must try the spaghetti.

You must not (mustn't) try the spaghetti.

Can you think of the negative forms of these modal verbs?

I can do a handstand

I can not (can't) do a handstand

We could have an ice cream.

We could not (couldn't) have an ice cream.

It may be sunny tomorrow.

It may not be sunny tomorrow.

This might take a long time.

This might not (mightn't) take a long time.

Modal Verbs



I will take more care next time.

I will not (won't) take more care next time

I would like to leave this place.

I would not (wouldn't) like to leave this place.

You must take a closer look.

You must not (mustn't) take a closer look.

I should really have a holiday.

I should not (shouldn't) really have a holiday.

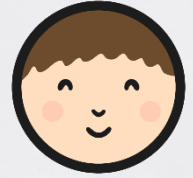
I've heard a lot about it, I ought to go there.

I've heard a lot about it, I ought not (oughtn't) to go there.

Independent Focused Activity



Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs



Work on your own to complete the **Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs Activity Sheet**.



Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs

1. Choose one of these modal verbs to complete each of these sentences.
You may only use each once so cross it off when you have used it!

can

might

will

should

would

can't

may

must

shouldn't

couldn't

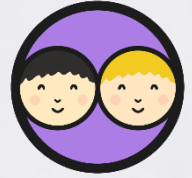
- Pasha _____ complete her homework.
- He was so tired he _____ keep his eyes open.
- Tom is a great footballer. He _____ even play in goal!
- If she keeps trying hard, she _____ just have a chance.
- He is still learning. He _____ do his shoe laces up just yet.
- You _____ hurt people or steal things.
- When you have finished, you _____ leave the table.
- It has been ordered, so when they get there, they _____ find it waiting for them.
- The bitter cold makes is certain there _____ be icy roads tomorrow.
- I _____ happily swap places with a millionaire.



Review Activity

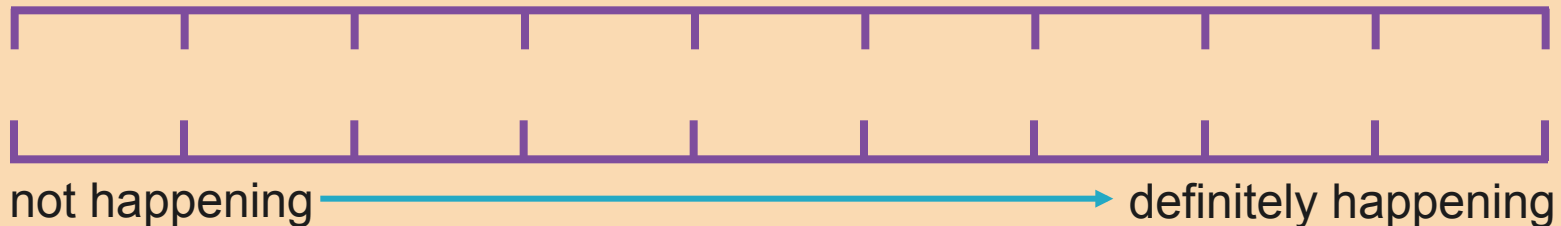


Ranking Modal Strength



With a partner, cut out the **modal verbs** from the sheet you are given and rearrange them on the line in order of strength!

Can you agree an order as a class?
Move the words below around until you agree.



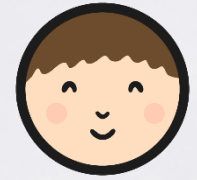
may	shoul d	woul d	ought to	must	might	could	will	can
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Then taking turns with your partner, make a series of sentences using each of the words from the chart in order – can you make them amusing or tell a story through the sentences you choose?

Consolidation Activity



Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations



Work on your own to take these unusual situations (such as a teddy bear playing for Manchester United) and use **modal verbs** to suggest some of the implications and possibilities.

Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence which uses **two of the modal verbs** supplied with the situation. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Example: An elephant jumps into a swimming pool. **might** **must not** **should**
It might be okay for elephants to swim without clothes in the wild but when they are in the swimming pool, they should wear a costume like everybody else.

a) A bull gets loose in a supermarket. **may** **shouldn't** **could**

b) A teddy bear plays up front for Manchester United. **will** **can** **would**

c) It rains non-stop for a month. **wouldn't (would not)** **ought to** **might not**

d) A shark has a wrestling match with a bear. **can** **might not (mightn't)** **could**

e) A chocolate river is found in South America. **must** **may not (mayn't)** **could**



SPaG Using Modal Verbs to indicate Possibility

Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

Challenge:

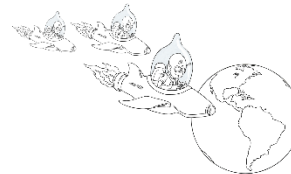
2. For the following situations make **your own choice of two modal verbs** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

a) Some cows form a band and release a single.

b) An alien attack fleet approaches Earth.

c) A cat attempts to climb Mount Everest.

d) The police start recruiting children to join the force.



SPaG Using Modal Verbs to indicate Possibility

Assessment



Mini Test



Use all of the information you have learned and practised about using **modal verbs**.

Work on your own to complete the Using Modal Verbs to Indicate Possibility **Mini Test**.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Using Modal Verbs to Indicate Degrees of Possibility Mini Test

1. Tick all of the sentences which contain **modal verbs**. 5 marks

I like chips because they taste nice.

I like singing but I prefer dancing.

I might be going on holiday at the weekend.

Dust mites are everywhere but they are so small we can't see them.

He should have scored. It was an open goal!

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2. Underline all of the **modal verbs** in the sentence below: 5 marks

It would have been amazing if we had beaten the record. We knew we could have and as the minutes ticked down, we really thought we would. There is a lot of belief in the team that we can do this, and we might be back next year for another attempt.

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3. Choose one of these **modal verbs** to complete the sentences. You may only use each one once. 3 marks

a) Try as she might, she _____ get the ball in the tiny hole.

b) If Hamza doesn't already brush his teeth well, then what the dentist told him _____ make him try harder.

c) For all we know, that _____ be the quickest route after all.

d) Letitia has improved a lot – she _____ do things she never would have dreamed of when she began.

e) Because it is an emergency, I _____ get there as quickly as I can.

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My Future Life with Modal Verbs






Use all of the information you have learned and practised about using **modal verbs**.

Work on your own to complete the **Application Activity**.

My Future Life with Modal Verbs

1. Modal verbs allow you to say what will and won't be and state the degree of possibility of other events occurring. Considering what lies ahead of you in your life is a good opportunity to use a variety of modal verbs.

Think about how certain areas of your life might develop. Think about twenty years from now when you are living as an adult. In the table below make some notes on these three areas.

House Where will you live? What will it be like?		
Job What will you do? Why do you think that?		
Happiness Will you be happy? Why/why not?		

2. Now write three paragraphs about your future life using as many modal verbs as you can. You will find it easier to use more if you explain the predictions you have made and if you wonder aloud about how things might work out. You can pick up on the appropriate tone from these sample sentences...

When I am 30, I would like to live in a nice house. It may be quite a big house because I will have earned some money by then and it should have enough room for me to keep all of the things I want. It could have a garden too and there might even be a swimming pool.

See if you can use **20 modal verbs or more!** Count them up when you have finished. How many did you use?

When I am 30, I will live...

Aim

- I can use modal verbs to say how likely something is to happen.

Success Criteria

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- I can identify modal verbs in texts.
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