

# MODALS-EXPRESSING ATTITUDES

11  
UNIT

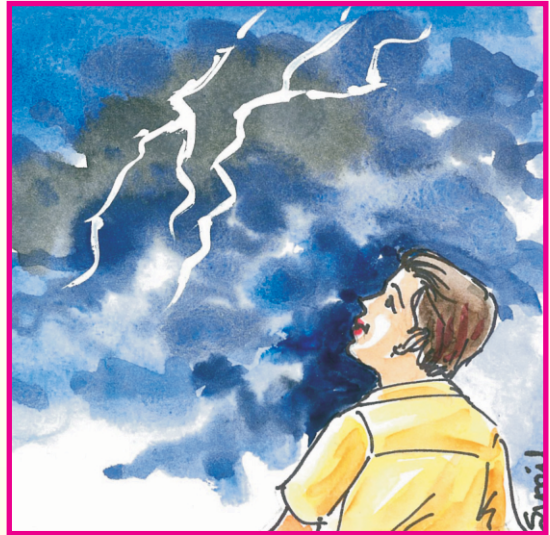
## A. Introduction

A.1 Look at the pictures given below:

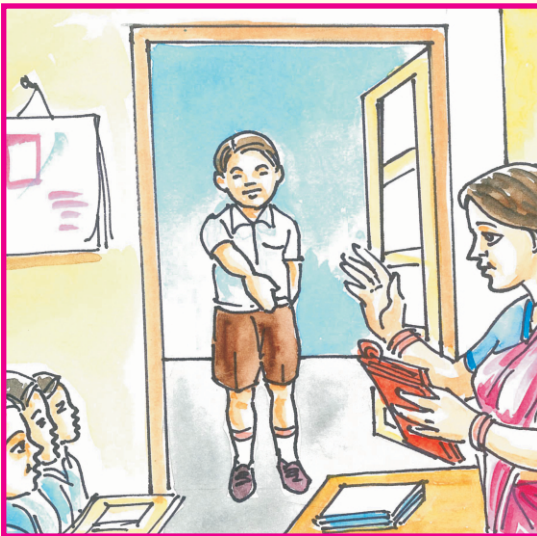
a.



b.



c.



d.



**Now complete the following dialogues using only one word for each blank on the basis of the pictures given above.**

- a) Manav: Suma is playing the violin very well.  
 Priya : Yes; \_\_\_\_\_ you play any musical instrument?  
 Manav : I \_\_\_\_\_. But I have learnt vocal music.
- b) Peter: It's suddenly become dark.  
 Nandiya : Yes; Thick clouds have gathered in the sky. It  
 \_\_\_\_\_ rain this evening.
- c) Abdullah: Ma'm , I'm a little late.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I enter the class?  
 Teacher: You \_\_\_\_\_. I'm afraid late coming has become a habit with you.
- d) Father: Take this. You \_\_\_\_\_ not forget to wear your helmet while riding your motorbike.  
 Son: Thanks, Dad. I forgot to pick it up.

**The words that you have used to fill in the blanks denote certain attitudes and functions. Match column (A) with column (B) for the dialogues that you have completed.**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Attitudes and Functions</b>	<b>Dialogues</b>
• Necessity	A
• Possibility	B
• Ability	C
• Permission	D

The words that you have used are called MODALS. They belong to a large category of auxiliary verbs, i.e. helping verbs that cannot be used on their own, but to be used in conjunction with other main verbs.

**A.2 Given below are some dialogues. Circle the modals and underline the main verbs in the italicised portions of the dialogues:-**

- a) A: Raju has fractured his arm.  
B: *But still he can write.*
- b) A: I have still some shopping to do. *May I leave my bag in your store?*  
B: Yes, but please collect it before 8.00 pm.
- c) A: The coffee is rather bitter. *Would you please pass some sugar?*  
B: *No, you must not take any sugar.*  
Have you forgotten your doctor's advice?
- d) A: I'll not be able to finish my assignment in time.  
B: *Shall I do the drawings for you?*
- e) A: Jamila hasn't come yet. It's already very late.  
B: *She may come tomorrow.*
- f) A: Someone is knocking on the door.  
B: I'll open it- *it'll be the maid.*
- g) A: My feet get swollen in the evening.  
B: *Then you must consult a doctor.*

**A.3 Match the highlighted portions of the dialogues with the attitudes and functions denoted by the modals used in them.**

**Dialogue**

**Attitudes and functions**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| a) ..... he <b>can</b> write                | offering (help)       |
| b) ..... <b>would</b> you please pass ..... | necessity             |
| c) ..... you <b>must</b> not .....          | requesting            |
| d) <b>shall</b> I do .....                  | asking for permission |
| e) she <b>may</b> come .....                | advising              |
| f) ..... It' <b>ll</b> be the maid.         | logical deduction     |
| g) ..... you <b>must</b> consult .....      | ability               |
| h) <b>May</b> I leave .....                 | possibility           |

**A.4 Here are the modals used in English.**

can	might	shall	would
could	must	should	
may	ought to	will	

**Also, some ordinary verbs and expressions are used to express the same attitudes as modals.**

be able to / be unable to	have to
be possible to / be impossible to	have got to
be used to	need to
	be going to
	had better
	bound to, etc.



### A.5 Look at the following sentences:

- a) He needn't come to office tomorrow.
- b) He needed permission to take a day off.

#### What is the difference in the use of 'need' between the above sentences?

- In sentence (a) 'need' is used as a \_\_\_\_\_ verb because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In sentence (b) 'need' is used as a \_\_\_\_\_ verb because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Can, could, may, might, shall, should, will and would are called 'pure' modals because they
    - a) are followed by a main verb in its bare infinitive form (e.g. I must go)
    - b) don't change in the third person (e.g. He will help and not He wills help.)
  - Need and dare are used both as modal verbs and main verbs.
    - e.g 1). They *needed* a lot of money to start a business (main verb).
    - 2) They *need not* borrow from the bank to start their business. (modal)  
(As a modal, verb 'need' is commonly used with 'not')
    - 3) He *dare not* challenge the authority of his boss. (modal verb)  
(As a modal verb dare is also commonly used with 'not')
    - 4) He *does not dare* to challenge the authority of his boss. (main verb)

### A.6 Complete the following conversation choosing the most appropriate option from those given in the box. There can be more than one option for some of the blanks.

- Gautam: I heard that Rahim (1) \_\_\_\_\_ open a garment shop, though he is a little uncertain.
- Sheela: He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ not plunge into another business proposition; he (3) \_\_\_\_\_ forget the colossal failure of his last business venture.

Gautam: You (4) \_\_\_\_\_ not have any worry on that count. He (5) \_\_\_\_\_ not be investing any money. His uncle is providing the capital and he said that Rahim (6) \_\_\_\_\_ be a working partner.

Sheela: In that case, I suppose, he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ go ahead. I remember how Rahim's father (8) \_\_\_\_\_ sit for hours worrying about his son's future.

Gautam: True. Now that Rahim has learnt his lesson, he (9) \_\_\_\_\_ be able to live upto the expectations of his father.

Sheela: Whatever you say, Rahim (10) \_\_\_\_\_ have his own way. He is that way a little obstinate. We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ only hope that everything turns out well.

- |               |              |           |           |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) a) may     | b) can       | c) could  | d) will   |
| 2) a) need    | b) dare      | c) will   | d) shall  |
| 3) a) needn't | b) shouldn't | c) won't  | d) can't  |
| 4) a) will    | b) shall     | c) need   | d) dare   |
| 5) a) could   | b) will      | c) shall  | d) must   |
| 6) a) can     | b) would     | c) should | d) could  |
| 7) a) will    | b) might     | c) can    | d) should |
| 8) a) could   | b) would     | c) will   | d) should |
| 9) a) should  | b) shall     | c) could  | d) will   |
| 10) a) must   | b) will      | c) can    | d) may    |
| 11) a) may    | b) will      | c) can    | d) must.  |

## B. Modals Expressing Possibility

**B.1** Look at the picture. What do you think is happening? Discuss in small groups. Use the modals given in the box.

could be

might be

must be

may be



**B. 2 Indira and Mary are discussing their holiday plans. Read the dialogue and fill in the blanks by using suitable modals.**

Indira: I'm so thrilled the exams are over.

Let's go to the North-East this time.

Mary: Yes. I'd love that. Where exactly do you want to go?

Indira: I'd like to go to Cherapunji.

Mary: That's hardly the place to go to. You see, it \_\_\_\_\_ raining there, especially at this time of the year. Let's go to Shillong instead.

Indira: Why Shillong?

Mary: Indira, I've lived in that place. You'll love it and the weather \_\_\_\_\_ really perfect now.

Indira: Okay, it's Shillong then. But tell me, do I need to carry woollens?

Mary: Not really. It's quite pleasant, but the nights \_\_\_\_\_ chilly, so bring a sweater.

Indira: And what about getting there?

Mary: Well..... you could fly to Juwahah, and then you can catch a bus to Shillong.

Indira: How far is Shillong?

Mary: It \_\_\_\_\_ about 80 kilometres. It \_\_\_\_\_ a three hour drive by taxi.

**B. 3 'Can' and 'Could' also denote ability. Rewrite the following sentences as shown in the example using 'Can' or 'Could'.**

Example: Parents who are able to support their children should not apply for scholarship.

Parents who can support their children should not apply for scholarship.

- a) After proper investigation, the police were able to nail the culprit.

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- b) After the examinations, I shall be able to go home for a week.

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- c) In spite of the sincere efforts of the coach, the team is not able to win a single trophy.

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Have you noticed that 'can' is used to denote ability in the present and future and 'could' is used to denote ability in the past? However, remember that 'could' refers to past time only when the context makes the time clear.

### **C. Modals - Past, Present & Future**

#### **C.1 Read the following report of a school cricket match and underline all the modals and the verbs accompanying them. Underline the modals red and the verbs green.**

Our school cricket team is practicing really hard for the zonal matches. I have no doubt that we will beat the local teams very easily, but when it comes to the outside teams, I am not as confident. Our boys must work very hard. Perhaps they could do some yoga exercises to improve their concentration. They need not worry about their fitness at this stage, but they should follow a strict routine.

Last year they had to struggle to reach the finals. The draw might have been a little unfavourable to them but they shouldn't have neglected their fielding. This landed them in trouble in the quarter finals. This year our team should try and do better in the field. We lost the finals last year mainly because of floored catches! A casual approach to this aspect must have been the cause of our failure at the crucial stage. So our team ought to improve its fielding and get its batting to click.

**C.2** You will have noticed in C1 that modals are used with a main verb to refer to the past, present or future. In pairs, look at the modals you have underlined and complete the table below. You may have noticed sometimes that the same modal is used to refer to the present as well as the future.

Present	Past	Future
<b>Must</b> _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____	<b>will</b> _____ _____

**C.3:** Mr. Mehta and family decide to drive down to Goa for a holiday. On their way their car develops some problem. Given below is a conversation among the Mehta family members. Read the conversation and complete the conversation using suitable modals from the ones given in the box.

**Note:** Sometimes there could be more than one correct answer. You may also have to use some of the modals in the box more than once.

must have, will, can't have, may have, must, may, could, needn't, can

Mrs Mehta: What is the matter? Why have you stopped?

Mr Mehta: The car is giving some trouble. I have a feeling something is wrong with the engine. Let me check.

Mrs Mehta: Do you think we \_\_\_\_\_ run out of petrol?

Mr. Mehta: No, we \_\_\_\_\_ run out of petrol. I got the tank filled before starting.

Mrs Mehta: If there is a technical fault, do you think you ----- be able to fix it?



Mr. Mehta: Let me first check what is wrong.

Dinu: Dad, look there's smoke coming out . The engine \_\_\_\_\_ become too hot.

Mr Mehta: Dinu, be careful. Don't take the cap off the radiator. You \_\_\_\_\_ not do that. You \_\_\_\_\_ get boiling water all over you.

Mrs Mehta: Yes, Dinu, we \_\_\_\_\_ have to wait till the engine cools down.

Dinu: And how long do you think it \_\_\_\_\_ take for that?

Mr Mehta: I'm not sure. We \_\_\_\_\_ have to wait for about fifteen minutes .

Dinu: Dad, I saw a garage about half a mile back. I suppose we \_\_\_\_\_ ask them to fix the problem.

Mr Mehta : You \_\_\_\_\_ worry . The car \_\_\_\_\_ be all right . I got it serviced before starting. I am sure it's just got too hot. Let's wait and allow the engine to cool a bit.

Dinu: Mom, I am feeling hungry. \_\_\_\_\_ I have something to eat?

Mrs Mehta: There are some sandwiches in the car. You \_\_\_\_\_ have them.

## **D. Modals - Referring to the Past**

### **D.1 Respond to the following situations by writing one sentence using might have, must have, should have, could have or ought to have. The first one has been done as an example.**

1. Amber was certain that he would be here today, but he hasn't come yet (miss, flight)

Response: He must have missed his flight; nothing else would have held him up.

2. I was asked to be here for a meeting at 10.00 today. It's already 10.30 and only a few of us are present.

(meeting, cancel)

Response: The meeting \_\_\_\_\_, but you'd better wait for another half an hour.

3. They say they definitely sent the appointment letter by post, but it never arrived. (send fax message)

Response: They \_\_\_\_\_ instead.

4. The Municipality did not bother about keeping the locality clean. When the epidemic broke out, it claimed many lives.

(take precautions, prevent epidemic)

Response: The Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

5. The Principal is not in her office. She probably had some urgent work at home. (go, home)

Response: She \_\_\_\_\_

6. Asha wasn't really a big hit as the heroine of the play. The director needn't have limited his choice to Class XII students alone.

(try, some of the XI class students)

Response: He \_\_\_\_\_

**D.2 Complete the following paragraph on a school sport meeting by filling in the blanks with could not have, might not have, should not have or would not have.**

At this year's sports meeting, many records were broken but the reigning sports champion, Ravi, surprisingly could not make it to the finals in any of his favourite events. Perhaps he \_\_\_\_\_ missed so many of his practice sessions. His coach tends to think that he \_\_\_\_\_ had the time to get fit enough because of his special

classes in the evenings. Even if he had tried, he \_\_\_\_\_ beaten Ramu, who was much better prepared. If it had not been for Ramu, our school \_\_\_\_\_ gained a place in the draw of the inter-school tournament.

**D. 3 Anant has returned from an interview. Read the dialogue, that takes place between Anant and his father. In pairs, fill in the blanks using any suitable modals. To help you, the number of words you need to use is given in brackets.**

Father: Well , Anant, how was the interview?

Anant: Father, it was a real nightmare. Just about everything went wrong. I was late. I didn't have the required papers and the GK questions.....!

Father: Really ! Anant, please don't think I'm lecturing you, but I'd like to say something about how you \_\_\_\_\_ (2) handled the whole business better.

Anant: Father, I wish you \_\_\_\_\_ (2) say that. You \_\_\_\_\_ (2) seen the amount of effort I put in.

Father: Well.... I have my doubts about that. First, let's take up this business about being late.

Anant: Please remember I only got six days' notice.

Father: No, my dear, it was more than that. If I'm not mistaken, you got the interview call on Saturday itself. If I'd been you, I \_\_\_\_\_ (2) begun my preparation on Saturday itself. Honestly you \_\_\_\_\_ (3) gone off on that weekend trip.

Anant: Father you know I'd been planning to go on that trip for ages.

Father: Well.... if you had stayed home you \_\_\_\_\_ (2) made a list of the papers required and filed them systematically.

Anant: Yes, perhaps you're right, but father - those GK questions ....?

Father: What about them? Haven't you been reading the papers regularly?

Anant: Yes of course. But those questions were so outdated. I \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
answered them even if I had read the paper every single day for the past 10  
years.

Father: Anant, there is no point complaining now. You \_\_\_\_\_ (1)/ (2) be  
prepared to be more alert about these things.

### **E. Modals - Summary**

**E.1 Read the following letter and choose the most suitable alternative from those given. Underline your choice. Sometimes more than one alternative is suitable.**

Dear Mohan

It was lovely to get your letter and to hear the good news that you are going trekking with your friends. You (ought to/ would/ should) have a break after your exams! You ask me what you (can/ should. will) take. Well, you (might/ can't/ mustn't) fit everything in a backpack so you must be selective. You (will/ can/ must) take at least one sweater because it (ought to/ should/ can) get very cold in the mountains. You (needn't/ could/ should) pack a gas stove because there (could/ may/ will) be plenty of firewood from dead trees.

I'm sure you will have a wonderful time but I (may/ would/ should) give you a word of warning. Don't get stuck in the Laki Pass at night. Once you're there you (won't be able to/ can't be able to/ not to able to) get down and it's very dangerous at night. By the way, you (should/ should have to/ should have) told me earlier that you were going and I (should have/ would have/ will have) given you my walking boots!

Anyway, look after yourself and enjoy your holiday.

With love

Daddy

## **E.2 A Night at the Theatre - Role Play**

Work in pairs. Below is a summary of a discussion between a parent and a child. Read through the notes and decide who will take which role. Then act out the role play. You will probably find that you sometimes need to use modals.

Background to role play

### **Role A - Daughter/ Son**

Yours exams start next week - behind with revision - want to go to theatre to see new play - with friend - his birthday - reduced tickets - good play - need rest from work - find it difficult to concentrate on work.

### **Role B - Father/ Mother**

Disagree with daughter/ son - worried - won't do well in exam - don't want them to waste time - for own good - why not worked hard before - if had worked, could go out after exams.

## **E.3 When you have finished, you and your partner should team up with another pair and write the dialogue. Then act it before the class.**

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## Integrated Grammar Practice



1. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each of the lines indicated. Underline the error and write your correction in the space provided as shown.

	Error	Correction
Economics, is nothing but a way to solving problems of	to	for
allocation of resources. Human want are graded in nature.	a) .....	
This means that a poor person will be more concern about	b) .....	
procurement of food for his surviving rather than buying a	c) .....	
luxury car. It is only after meet this requirement that his	d) .....	
need for other things should arise. The Government must	e) .....	
outline its country specific solution to the same problems,	f) .....	
that is, allocate of resources . There are three essential	g) .....	
problems, namely what to produced, how to produce and	h) .....	
for whom to produce.		

(Adapted from The Great Indian Dream by Arindam Chaudhury)

2. Given below is a dialogue between two friends discussing their classmates. Complete their dialogue by filling in the spaces with appropriate options from those given below.

Ruma: These days Javed is seen more (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
than in the classroom. What is he up to?

Lekha: He is representing our school in the forthcoming 'Inter State Junior Tennis Tournament' scheduled next month so he (b) \_\_\_\_\_ daily to improve his skills and stamina.

Ruma: Oh! And what about Seema? She too (c) \_\_\_\_\_ five days now. Have you heard from her?

Lekha: She is down with severe cold , cough and high fever. Last evening when I called her up (d) \_\_\_\_\_ , she told me that the doctor had advised her at least ten days bed rest .

Ruma: She must be really bored sitting at home. She has never liked the idea of sitting indoors.

(a) (i) on the field      (ii) in the field      (iii) at the field      (iv) out of the field

(b) (i) spent most of his time in the practice

(ii) is spending most of his time practicing

(iii) has been spending most of the time for practice

(iv) has spent most of his time in practice

(c) (i) have been absent for more than      (ii) is being absent for more than

(iii) has been absent for more than      (iv) was absent for more than

(d) (i) for found out why she had not been coming to school

(ii) to find out why she is not come to school

(iii) to finding out why she is not been coming to school

(iv) for find out why she has not been coming to school

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided as given below.

	Error	Correction
Decision-making is a very vital part in our lives. This is		in <u>of</u>
because where we are today is largely the result of the	a) .....	
decisions we took in the past. Similarly, whatever happened	b) .....	
tomorrow will be a result of the decisions we took in	c) .....	
the present. That is not possible to reverse the wrong	d) .....	
decisions taken in the past so it is possible to train	e) .....	
ourselves to becoming a good decision-maker for the	f) .....	
future. If we didn't, we'll end up doing what we've	g) .....	
always did and thus get what we've always got.	h) .....	
Philosopher Walter Kaufman has called this Decidophobia.		

4. Look at the newspaper items below. Then use the information in the headlines to complete the paragraphs.

#### 1. Radiation reaches food chain in Japan

The Japanese government on Saturday confirmed that \_\_\_\_\_ as higher than normal levels of radioactive materials were found in spinach and milk at six farms in Ibaraki

#### 2. Pakistan mine blast death toll hits 45

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday's methane gas explosions in a coal mine

in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, government officials said, as hopes of finding any survivors from the disaster faded.

### **3. Four New York Times journalists released in Libya**

Four New York Times journalists who had been held \_\_\_\_\_ and are expected to cross the border to Tunisia on Monday.

### **4. Rs 700 cr fine imposed on telecom firms: Govt.**

Fines to the tune of Rs 700 crore \_\_\_\_\_ on various telecom operators for carrying out illegal and clandestine activities in their services, particularly for non-compliance of the subscriber verification process.

### **5. Given below are instructions for making Chocolate Pudding Cake. Complete the following paragraph which describes how Chocolate pudding cake is made. The first one is done as an example.**

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Combine 1 cup flour, 2 tsp. baking powder, 1/4 tsp salt, 2 tbs. cocoa and 2/3 cup sugar in a mixing bowl.
- Add 3/4 cup milk, 1 tsp. vanilla extract and 2 tbs. melted butter.
- Beat with an electric mixer until smooth and pale in colour.
- Stir in 1/3 cup walnuts.
- Pour batter into a buttered 8 inch square baking dish and set aside.

- Combine 1/2 cup dark brown sugar, 2 tsp. instant coffee, 1 cup water in a heavy saucepan. Cook over high heat stirring constantly until the mixture comes to a boil.
- Gently pour hot sauce over cake batter.
- Bake for 40 minutes
- Top with caramel.

The oven is preheated to 350 degree. Flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and cocoa (a) \_\_\_\_\_ in a mixing bowl. After adding milk, vanilla extract and melted butter, the mixture (b) \_\_\_\_\_ in colour. 1/3 cup of walnuts (c) \_\_\_\_\_. The batter (d) \_\_\_\_\_ a buttered baking dish and set aside. Brown sugar, coffee and water are combined in a heavy saucepan. The mixture is cooked over high heat till it starts boiling. Hot sauce is poured over the cake batter. It (e) \_\_\_\_\_ caramel before serving.

6. **In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined.**

Twenty years ago, kids in school never even (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
 heard the internet. The internet is a vast resource (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
 for types of information. It is like a giant bulletin (c) \_\_\_\_\_

board that the whole world uses! But anyone can put anything the internet, you have to be careful. You must use your best judgment browsing it. And you can't rely on what strangers you 'meet' the internet tell either.

(d) \_\_\_\_\_

(e) \_\_\_\_\_

(f) \_\_\_\_\_

(g) \_\_\_\_\_

(h) \_\_\_\_\_