

Modals



Modals

In English, modals are the auxiliary verbs which have neither participles nor infinitives.

The following are some of the modal verbs in English grammar:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (i) Shall | (ii) Will |
| (iii) Should | (iv) Would |
| (v) Can | (vi) Could |
| (vii) May | (viii) Might |
| (ix) Used to | (x) Ought to |
| (xi) Need to | (xii) Dare |

Note:

- Do not use modals for things which happen definitely.
Eg: The sun rises in the East.
- They do not have an -s in the 3rd person singular.
Eg: He can play football.
- Questions are formed **without do/does/did**.
Eg: Can he speak Spanish?
- It follows a full verb in the infinitive.
Eg: They must read the book.
- There are no past forms (except could and would).
Eg: He was allowed to watch the film.
- When you use the past participle, you tell about things which didn't happen in the past.
Eg: You should have told me.



Use of Modals



Use of shall/ will

Generally "shall" is used with "I and we" and will is used with the rest.

Illustrative EXAMPLE



I shall buy a laptop.

You will go to market.

But

If a sentence refers to

- Promise
- Willingness
- Certainty
- Determination
- Threat in which case "shall" is used in place of "will" and "will" is used in place of "shall".

Illustrative EXAMPLE



I will help you (Promise or willingness)

I will kill you (Threat)

Nobody shall touch this book without my permission (Threat)



Use of Should

(i) **"Should" is used for any active suggestion**

You should work sincerely

Work hard lest you should fail.

(ii) **"Should" is used for opinion**

Which work should I do first?

(iii) **"Should" is used for duty or obligation**

I should be at work now.

One should wear seat belt while driving

(iv) **"Should" is used for probability or expectation**

He should be here soon.

Steve should have submitted the report.



Used of would

(i) "Would" is used for past

Example: He would go for a walk when he was young.

(ii) "Would" is used for polite request

Example: Would you like to take a cup of coffee or tea?

(iii) In indirect sentence 'would' is used as part of "will"

Direct: He said, "He will come".

Indirect: He said that he would come.

(iv) "Would" is used to express opinion or hope

Example: I would like to inform you about it

(v) "Would" is used for wish

Example: I wish I would be a successful man



Use of Can

(i) "Can" is used to show power

The ambassador can give you visa.

(ii) "Can" is used to show ability

I can solve this sum.

(iii) "Can" is used to show possibility

Anyone can speak English?

(iv) "Can" is used to take/ give permission

Can I sit here

You can go now.

(v) "Can" is used for polite request

Can you do me a favour?

Can I talk to Steve?

(VI) "Can" is used to show nature

He can speak the truth.



Use of Could

"Could" is the past form of "can"

(i) "Could" is used to show possibility in past

I could win the race last year

(ii) "I could" is used to show ability in past

She could speak English when she was young

(iii) "Could" is used for polite request

Could you tell me the way to the nearest post office?



Use of May

(i) "May" is used for formal permission

May I come in sir?

May I borrow your pen?

(ii) "May" is used to show possibility

It may rain today

Death may come any time



Use of Might

(i) "Might" is used for weak possibility

He might come anytime

(ii) "Might" is used for past possibility

She might have attended the meeting



Use of Must

(i) "Must" is used for necessity and obligation.

I must attend the class

(ii) "Must" is used for compulsion

You must obey the rules of your country

(iii) "Must" is used for emphatic advice

You must not miss the class



Use of Need To

(i) "Need" to is used to show requirement

You need to work hard



Use of Used To

(i) "Used" to is used to show past habit

I used to go to school when I was young

We used to go out for dinner when we were in Delhi



Use of Ought To

(i) **"Ought" to is used for social binding and moral respect**

You ought to follow the norms of society

You ought to respect your elders



Use of Dare

(i) **"Dare" is used to show courage**

How dare you to come here?

Self Evaluation **TEST**



Duration
10 Minutes

Fill in the blanks with suitable modals.



I _____ solve this question.

- (A) May
- (B) Might
- (C) Can
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these



He _____ work hard to pass the exam.

- (A) Should
- (B) Might
- (C) Ought to
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these



You _____ follow the rules of your country.

- (A) Should
- (B) Might
- (C) Must
- (D) Could
- (E) None of these



He _____ to respect his elders.

- (A) Need
- (B) Ought
- (C) Has
- (D) All of these
- (E) None of these



My grandmother _____ to go for a walk when she was young.

- (A) Had
- (B) Has
- (C) Should
- (D) Used
- (E) None of these



It _____ rain today.

- (A) Can
- (B) May
- (C) Could
- (D) Should
- (E) None of these



Any one _____ speak in English.

- (A) May
- (B) Might
- (C) Can
- (D) Could
- (E) None of these



I _____ kill you.

- (A) Shall
- (B) Will
- (C) Should
- (D) Would
- (E) None of these



If i had invited him he _____ have come.

- (A) Will
- (B) Would
- (C) Should
- (D) Shall
- (E) None of these



Work hard lest you fail.

- (A) Will
- (B) Would
- (C) Should
- (D) Shall
- (E) None of these

Answers

1. D 2. D 3. C 4. B 5. D 6. B 7. C 8. B 9. B 10. C