

# Modals Exercises

---

**Define:** We use the modals verbs can, may, must in the English language to express various meaning – ability, ' possibility, permission, attitudes, opinions, etc.

## Modal Verbs

Uses of Can – Could

Can	Could
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General ability (present) I can speak English.</li><li>• Ask for permission (informal) Can I borrow your pen please?</li><li>• To request something Can you help me please?</li><li>• Possibility It can get very cold there at night.</li><li>• Offer to help someone Can I carry your bags for you?</li><li>• Cannot (can't) = not allowed You cannot smoke in this room/ You can't go to the party.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General ability in the past I could play the piano when I was younger.</li><li>• Ask for Permission (more polite) Could I use your bathroom please?</li><li>• To request something (more polite) Could you pass me the salt please?</li><li>• Possibility in the past could + have + past participate You could have broken your leg.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion (when asked what to do)  We could go to the movies if you like.</li> <li>• Conditional of Can (would be able to)  If we had some oranges I could make you some fresh juice. (= would be able to)</li> </ul>
--	---

### **May – Might**

Uses of May and Might:

- Possibility

It might rain later so take an umbrella while going out.

- Give permission

You may have another cookie if you like.

- Ask for permission

May I borrow your pen, please?

- Express wishes

May the New Year bring you happiness.

- Speculate about past actions

She is late. She may have missed her plane.

### **May or Might?**

May and Might can normally be interchanged without a significant difference in meaning.

However, Might often implies a smaller chance of something happening (When expressing possibility).

- It may rain. (70% chance)
- It might rain. (40% chance)

When expressing wishes or giving permission, only May is used.

### **Shall – Will**

Uses of Shall

- Suggestions

Shall I get a pizza for dinner tonight?

- Offers/volunteering

That bag looks heavy. Shall I carry it for you?

- Instruction (asking for or giving)

What shall I do with your mail when it arrives

- Promises

You shall be the first person to know.

- Confirmation (statement of act)

I shall meet you there at 7.

### **Uses of will**

- Rapid Decision

I'm thirsty. I think I will buy a drink.

- Offer

That looks heavy. I will help you with it.

- Promise

Don't worry, I won't tell anyone.

- Threat

If you don't stop, I will tell your mother.

- Refusal won't = will not

She won't listen to anything I say.

In all of the examples above, shall be replaced by another modal verb.  
Suggestion/Instruction – Should Offers – Can/Could Promises/Confirmation – Will  
Should

### Uses of Should:

- Advice or Suggestion

Your hair is too long. You should get a haircut.

- The situation likely in the present

Mary should be at home now. Give her a call.

- Likely in the future (Prediction)

They should win tonight, they're a better team.

Should + Have + past participle

Meaning: The subject did not fulfill their obligation in the past or did not act sensibly.

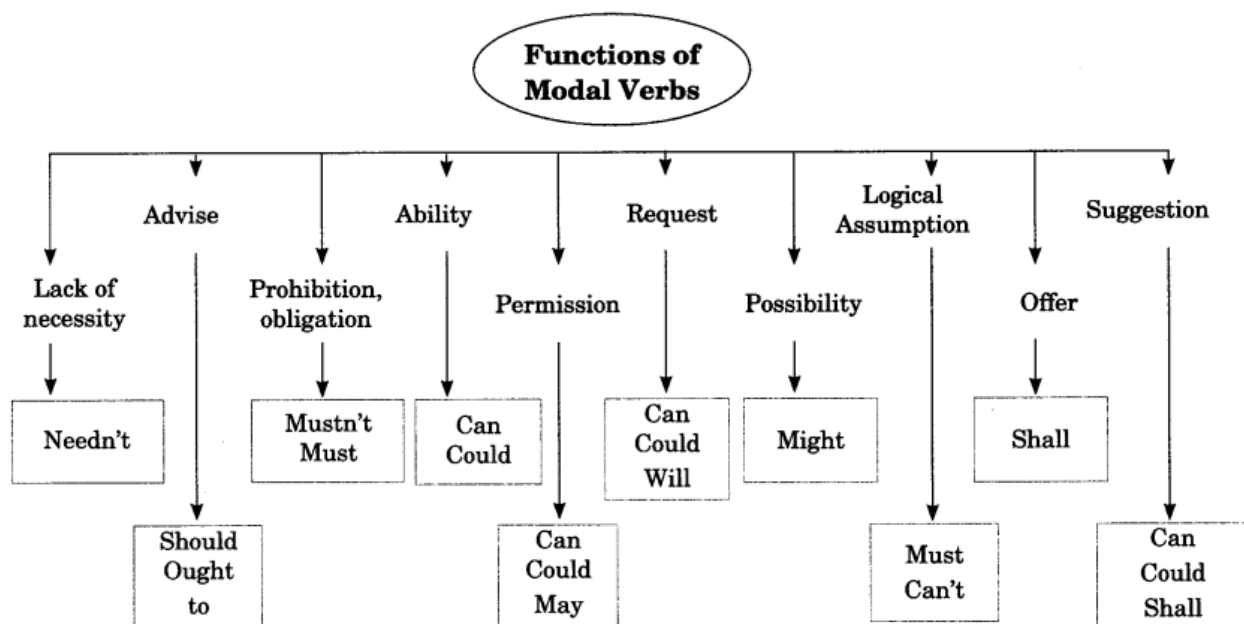
You should have given your boss the report yesterday when he asked for it.

- Should + be + verb -ing

Meaning: The subject is not fulfilling their obligation not or not acting sensibly.

You should be wearing your seatbelt.

We should be studying for the test right now.



### Question 1.

Use 'shall' or 'will' in following blanks.

- (i) He \_\_\_\_\_ not come tomorrow.
- (ii) You \_\_\_\_\_ be fined for speeding.
- (iii) She \_\_\_\_\_ be here for lectures.
- (iv) Rajan \_\_\_\_\_ be going there tomorrow.
- (v) What \_\_\_\_\_ happen now?
- (vi) He \_\_\_\_\_ be the best teacher.
- (vii) She \_\_\_\_\_ be banned for her misbehaviour
- (viii) She \_\_\_\_\_ not do it today.
- (ix) You \_\_\_\_\_ be blamed for such mistake.
- (x) He \_\_\_\_\_ start journey tonight.

**Answer:**

- (i) 'will
- (ii) shall
- (iii) will
- (iv) will
- (v) will
- (vi) will
- (vii) shall
- (viii) will
- (ix) 'will
- (x) will

### Question 2.

Fill in the blanks.

- (i) You \_\_\_\_\_ follow the rules.

- (ii) She \_\_\_\_\_ start her preparations soon.  
 (iii) It \_\_\_\_\_ not happen soon.  
 (iv) You \_\_\_\_\_ not try to do this.  
 (v) Go now lest you \_\_\_\_\_ report late.  
 (vi) She \_\_\_\_\_ open the door.  
 (vii) He \_\_\_\_\_ have returned by this time.  
 (viii) You \_\_\_\_\_ stop doing such activities.  
 (ix) This glass \_\_\_\_\_ be handled with care.  
 (x) Run fast lest you \_\_\_\_\_ be late.

**Answer:**

- (i) Should  
 (ii) will  
 (iii) may  
 (iv) should  
 (v) should  
 (vi) will  
 (vii) must  
 (viii) should  
 (ix) should  
 (x) should

**Question 1.**

Find the modal verbs in the word search below instruction. Words can be found forward, backward, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

H	w	E	L	H	X	C	Y	A	G	J	Y	K	D	F
M	I	K	S	A	B	Q	A	D	W	H	A	D	G	C
E	L	A	G	D	M	A	Y	T	E	H	B	I	V	A
P	L	M	U	J	X	P	O	F	Y	S	Z	A	L	N

E	D	O	P	G	E	W	C	V	S	H	A	L	L	A
Z	X	B	G	O	D	K	C	A	L	O	B	E	T	H
A	S	O	P	D	G	A	B	J	E	U	V	O	Y	L
I	B	E	H	T	F	F	U	U	L	L	H	G	U	O
K	T	S	A	D	L	U	O	w	M	D	D	P	M	A
E	H	R	G	E	R	A	s	M	A	E	T	S	U	U
A	G	T	H	A	L	B	G	I	T	B	E	H	S	T
O	I	P	K	C	B	Y	P	P	H	A	H	G	T	D
Y	M	U	O	I	R	G	L	I	G	P	A	E	R	A
H	T	B	E	E	S	U	O	Y	U	E	V	A	H	M
E	N	E	W	R	O	D	L	U	O	C	T	U	T	S

S	C	V	O	Y	T	D	D	I	H	T	F	Z	A	L
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The words are as follows.

- will – can
- would – shall
- should – must
- could – might
- may – ought

### Question 2.

Choose the correct option.

- (i) They \_\_\_\_\_ be on holiday, but I'm not sure. (can, may)
- (ii) You \_\_\_\_\_ be right, but I'd still like to check. (can, could)
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ you turn it down a bit, please? (can, may)
- (iv) It's Ok – you go when you've finished. (may, might)
- (v) Ask any questions now as you \_\_\_\_\_ not talk during the test. (may, could)