



**Modal  
verbs**

# Modal verbs

Here's a list of the modal verbs in English:

- Can / Could
- May / Might
- Must
- Be to
- Have to / Have got to
- Need
- Should
- Ought to
- Would
- Will
- Used to
- Shall
- Dare



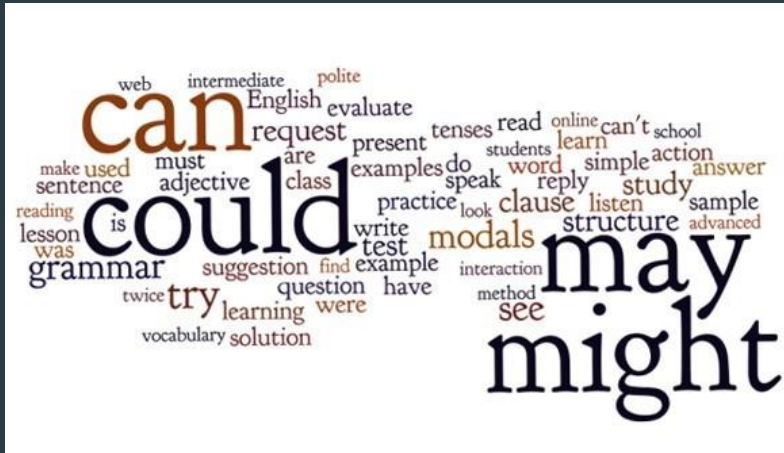
**MODAL  
VERBS**

## Remember!

Modal verbs are followed by an infinitive without "to", also called the bare infinitive.

# Why do you need to know modal verbs?

Their correct use in colloquial literate English confirms that you have mastered such a level of English that has passed the initial basic level of everyday communication. And if you do not use them in your speech when communicating with an American or British, then this means that you are still at the initial stage of learning English and do not have sufficient competence.



# Synonyms

It is important to note that these speech elements are completely replaceable, have a whole list of synonymous non-modal analogs, which are conjugated and agreed according to general linguistic rules.

Among the most frequently used synonyms are:

- to be able to - used to replace the can-verb, translated as "to be able to do something, to be able to do";
- have to - analogue of must, used to denote the obligation "must / must";
- to be allowed to - is often put instead of may / might, meaning "to get permission to do something";
- to be supposed to - synonymous with the should-verb, in translation - "to be implied" or "should be done" (as a recommendation).

For greater clarity, we offer information in the table:

Original	Synonym	Translation
Mary can sing.	Mary is able to sing.	Мері вміє співати.
You must tell me the truth!	You have to tell me the truth!	Ти повинен сказати мені правду!
May I ask say something?	Am I allowed to say smth?	Можу я щось сказати?

## Modals are different from normal verbs:

- 1: They don't use an 's' for the third person singular.
- 2: They make questions by inversion ('she can go' becomes 'can she go?').
- 3: They are followed directly by the infinitive of another verb (without 'to').

## Probability:

First, they can be used when we want to say how sure we are that something happened / is happening / will happen. We often call these 'modals of deduction' or 'speculation' or 'certainty' or 'probability'.

### For example:

- It's snowing, so it **must be** very cold outside.
- I don't know where John is. He **could have missed** the train.
- This bill **can't be** right. £200 for two cups of coffee!

# Ability

We use 'can' and 'could' to talk about a skill or ability.

For example:

- She **can speak** six languages.
- My grandfather **could play** golf very well.
- I **can't drive**.



# Obligation and Advice

We can use verbs such as 'must' or 'should' to say when something is necessary or unnecessary, or to give advice.

For example:

- Children **must do** their homework.
- We **have to wear** a uniform at work.
- You **should stop** smoking.



# Permission

We can use verbs such as 'can', 'could' and 'may' to ask for and give permission. We also use modal verbs to say something is not allowed.

For example:

- **Could I leave** early today, please?
- You **may not use** the car tonight.
- **Can we swim** in the lake?



# Habits

We can use 'will' and 'would' to talk about habits or things we usually do, or did in the past.

For example:

- When I lived in Italy, we **would** often **eat** in the restaurant next to my flat.
- John **will** always **be** late!

# Can

Having analyzed the most important theoretical rules of use, we propose to consider separately each of the modal-verbs. This will reveal the existing features and details, prevent any offensive speech errors.

Displays the ability of a person to do something, is used in the meaning of "be able". It is considered the most popular and widespread, it is present in almost any dialogue. Belongs to the category of insufficient - that is, those that do not have all temporary forms. In fact, it is only present in Present (can) and Past (could) Tense.

For example:

- Could you help me?
- Mrs. Smith can do it so fast, you'd be surprised!
- I can't tell you, it's not my secret.

# To be able to

Since the previous modal verb does not have a form that would fit the future tense, a number of sentences use its synonymous counterpart. Since it has the same semantic coloring, there are no problems with the perception of information.

## For example:

- Susan will be able to move in her new house this summer.
- I guess, I am able to leave it.
- He wasn't able to fix it.

# May

Typically used to indicate the likelihood of an event. It has two forms - Present and Past Tense.

## For example:

- The weather might be very sunny today.
- I think, I may achieve it.

# Let

Belongs to the category of semi-modal, is included in proposals to "allow" to do something.

## For example:

- Let me to introduce you.
- Let John not to work tomorrow.

# To be allowed to

According to the rules of classical English grammar, this phrase can be used as a full and full replacement for the previous modal verb. It demonstrates that permission to do something was obtained without specifying who exactly gave it.

For example:

- Sam is allowed to edit the novels.
- After all this stuff he was not allowed to enter.

# Dare

Another popular verb word that is used to emphasize the courage to do something.

For example:

- Workers dare not ask him about salary because they are really scary of him.
- How dare you?

# Must

One of the most aggressive and uncompromising verbs. Used only if a specific action needs to be performed. Something from the category of "life and death". When execution doesn't matter as much, verb is replaced with should.

## For example:

- He mustn't die!
- You must be here on time!
- Mary must do it if she wants to get to the university.

# Have to

It is used as a synonymous analogue of the previous expression, which does not have the forms of the past and future tense.

For example:

- He had to wash the car because his mother asked for that.
- Jane have to tell everything about her past to save the relationship. Victoria will have to finish it until Saturday.

# Need

The main function is to describe the need to perform an action.

For example:

- Mary needs to do it or she'd be expelled.
- I need you to discuss works stuff.



# Should

A less radical version of the modal verb in comparison with the previous ones. It is rather advisory in nature, often used in the preparation of suggestions, advice.

## For example:

- You should read before you go to the school.
- He shouldn't say it because the words can hurt

# Used to

In fairness, it should be noted that there is heated debate about the modality of this verb phrase. Linguists still cannot decide which group it belongs to, how it should be perceived.

## For example:

- I used to do my best but now I became lazier.
- He used to smoke but now he looks after his health.

# Ought to

In fact, an expression that has almost the same meaning as the previous one. It is used extremely rarely, it is considered not too typical for English speech.

For example:

- Diana ought to give all her time to family.
- She always thinks boys ought to buy flowers on a first date.

# Would

As a rule, it is present in polite requests and appeals.

For example:

- Would you like to go to the theatre with me?
- I'd like to buy some Christmas presents for my family.

# Shall/will

Two verbs-synonyms used in the future tense. They have both an affirmative and negative form.

For example:

- Will you drink it?
- You won't do it because you are too good for it.
- Shall I call you this evening?

## Be to

This verbal phrase is used to express a circumstance. It happens not only in the present, but also in the past time interval. All performed functions can be reduced to two things: the designation of predetermined events or the strictest prohibitions.

For example:

- The little boy was to become the most famous pilot in the world.

## About additional use cases

Above, we examined in detail the most typical situations when modal verb can flash in a conversation. However, along with them, more specific and non-standard circumstances stand out, forcing them to turn to stable structures. Which ones?

- Indirect speech : My mother said I should do it
- Perfect infinitive : Jack might not have say it on purpose

Thank You