

# Modal Verbs



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# What is a Modal Verb?

## • They are:

- Can
- Could
- May
- Might
- Must
- Shall
- Should
- Will
- Would
- Ought to

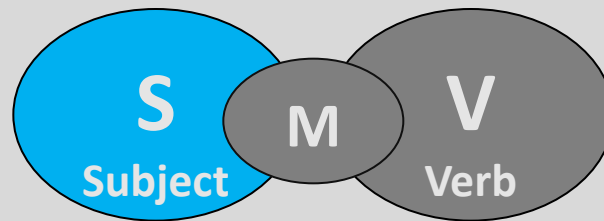
They are **Auxiliary verbs** which give additional and specific meaning to the main verb of the sentence

**Modal verbs** are also called **Modal Auxiliary verbs** since they **help** other verbs



*Use*

**John can speak English very well**



- They do not accept conjugation
- They do not need other auxiliary verbs



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## Form:

- There is no “**s**” in singular
- There is no “**do / does**” in the question
- There is no “**don’t / doesn’t**” in the negative
- Modal verbs do not have all the tenses
- **Modal verbs** use other verbs to complete the tenses

**Can** is completed with **be able to**  
**Must** is completed with **have to**

You **must** come early

You **had to** come early yesterday



## *What do they express?*

They can have more than one meaning depending on the situations

There are **3 categories** of Modal Verbs:

1. **Single Concept Modal:** they have **one** meaning
2. **Double Concept Modal:** they have **two** meanings
3. **Modals in past:** They are used to express a situation in the past



# Categories

Single concept Modals	Double Concept Modals	Modals in Past (Perfect Modals)
Will Might Should Ought to Had better	May Must Would Shall Could Can	Would have Could have Might have Should have May have Must have



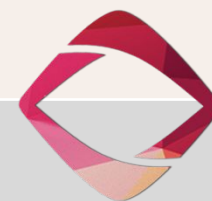
# Single Concept Modal

Modal	Meaning	Examples
<b>Will</b>	Future	Joe will travel to NY next week
<b>Might</b>	Small probability	I might move to Canada some day
<b>Should</b>	Recommendation	You should go to the doctor
<b>Ought to</b>	Formal recommendation	We ought to know about first aids
<b>Had better</b>	Warning	I had better study or I will fail the test



# Double Concept Modal

Modal	Meaning	Examples
<b>Shall (1)</b>	Educated expression Offer	Excuse me, I shall go now Shall I clean it?
<b>Shall (2)</b>	Contractual obligation	The company shall pay on January 1st
<b>Could (1)</b>	Request	Could you pass me the salt, please?
<b>Could (2)</b>	Past Ability	She could play the piano, not anymore
<b>Could (3)</b>	Possibility	He could visit us today
<b>Can (1)</b>	Request	Can I have a sweet?
<b>Can (2)</b>	Ability	We can speak English
<b>Can (3)</b>	Possibility	I can visit you now





# Double Concept Modal

Modal	Meaning	Examples
<b>May (1)</b>	Request	May I come in?
<b>May (2)</b>	Good probability	We may visit Mexico this summer
<b>Must (1)</b>	Obligation	Everyone must pay taxes
<b>Must (2)</b>	Certainty	She didn't arrive. She must be sick
<b>Would (1)</b>	Request	Would you open the door, please?
<b>Would (2)</b>	Suggestion/Offer	Would you like something to eat?



# Perfect Modals

- They refer to actions that happened in the past

MODAL + HAVE + verb in past participle

It **must** have **been** *a difficult decision*

They **should** have **invited** her to their wedding



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# Perfect Modals

Modal	Meaning	Examples
<b>Must have + participle</b>	a logical conclusion about a past fact	Rob has arrived late. He must have been in a traffic jam.
<b>May/might have + participle</b>	a supposition about something in the past	She may/might have taken the wrong bus.
<b>Could have + participle</b>	Ability to do something in the past which in the end was not done	You could have asked the doctor before taking the medicine.
<b>Couldn't have + participle</b>	Certainty that something did not happen	He couldn't have gone to the concert because he was doing the test.



# Perfect Modals

Modal	Meaning	Examples
<b>Would have + participle</b>	Desire to do something in the past which in fact could not be done	I would have gone to the party, but I was too busy.
<b>Should/ought to + participle</b>	Criticism or regret after an event	You should/ought to have warned me earlier.
<b>Shouldn't have + participle</b>	Criticism or regret after an event, showing that it shouldn't have happened	He shouldn't have forgotten about her birthday.
<b>Needn't have + participle</b>	An unnecessary past action	You needn't have brought anything to my party.

## Modals-like verbs

There are few verbs which often serve as **modals** too. These are **modal-like verbs**. They need to be conjugated.

Modal	Concept	Example
Like to	Enjoy	I like to watch TV
Want to	Desire	John wants to buy a car
Need to	Necessity	We really needed to talk to you
Have to	Obligation	Susan had to pay the rent
Have got to	Have to	I've got to go now
Look forward to	Future plan	I look forward to seeing you again



*The End*



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