

# Modal verbs of ability and possibility



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**A modal** is a type of auxiliary (helping) verb that is used to express:  
ability(здатність,спроможність),  
possibility(можливість,змога),  
permission or obligation(дозвіл,

зобов'язання). **The modals in English**  
**are:**

- **Can/could/be able to** - могут, може; бути в змозі
- **May/might** - може (менш впевнено); може (більш впевнено)
- **Shall/should** - запитати про щось; дати пораду
- **Must/have to** - повинен (нагальна потреба); повинен
- **Will/would** - хотіти (бажати); коли ми щось хочемо,але не можемо

***ABILITY***

(здатність,  
можливість)

# Can, Could, Be Able To:

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*are used to express a  
variety of ideas in English*

# Present and Future:

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**It is formed:**

**can/can't + base form of  
the verb.**

- E.g.:**
1. Tom **can write** poetry very well.
  2. I **can help** you with that next week.
  3. Lisa **can't** speak French.



- am / is / are / will be + able to + base form of the verb
- am not/ isn't / aren't/ won't be + able to + base form of the verb

E.G.:

1. Mike **is able to solve** complicated math equations
2. The support team **will be able to help** you in about ten minutes.
3. I **won't be able to visit** you next summer

# Past:



**could / couldn't + base  
form of the verb**

**E.G.:**

1. When I was a child I **could**  
**climb** trees.

- was / were + able to + base form of the verb
  - wasn't / weren't + able to + base form of the verb
  - <sup>E.G.:</sup> hasn't / haven't + been able to + base form of the verb
1. I **wasn't able to visit** her in the hospital.
  2. He **hasn't been able to get** in touch with the client yet.



# NOTE:



*Can and could do not take an infinitive (to) and do not take the future auxiliary will.*

**Incorrect:** I can ~~to~~ help you this afternoon.

**Correct:** I can help you this afternoon

***POSSIBILITE -  
IMPOSSIBILITY***

**(можливість\немож  
ливість)**

can / can't + base form of the verb

E.G.:

- You can catch that train at 10:43.
- He can't see you right now. He's in surgery.

could + base form of the verb

E.G.:

- I could fly via Amsterdam if I leave the day before.

# *May, Might*



*May and might are used to talk  
about possible  
active in the future.*

***POSSIBILITE -  
IMPOSSIBILITY***

**(можливість\немож  
ливість)**



*may/ might + base form of the verb*

1. We may go out dinner tonight. Do you want to join us?
2. Our company might get the order if the client agrees to the price.

*may not / might not + base form of the verb*

1. Adam and Sue may not buy that house. It's very expensive.
2. They might not buy a house at all.