

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,

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

- **Can/could/be able to** - можуть, може; бути в змоззі
- **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:

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

Present and Future:

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
 - ^{E.G.:} 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.