**Modal Verbs**

* What are modal verbs?

Modal verbs are a small group of verbs, which are very different from normal verbs.

* Which verbs are common modal verbs?

Can, could, may, might, should, must, shall, will, would

* How are modal verbs different from other verbs?

- They do not take “s” in the third person: he can, she must, it could

- They use “not” in the negative form: they may not, we should not

- They cannot be used in the past or in the future tenses

- There is no “to” after them: I can do, you must see

* Which modal verb do we use and when?

 

* Some of these common modal verbs have synonyms we often use.

**Examples:**

must = have to, need to

she **must** leave = she **has to** live = she **needs to** leave

should = ought to

he **should** speak to his boss = he **ought to** speak to his boss

* How can we use modal verbs in the past?



* How can we use modal verbs in the future?



1. **Complete the sentences with one of the two choices.**

1. You really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ watch tv this much. (shall / shouldn‟t)

2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be at work, she always works at this time. (must / could)

3. Speak up, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hear you! (can‟t / couldn‟t)

4. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hear a word he said. (can‟t / couldn‟t)

5. Andrew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ call his wife urgently. (must / shouldn‟t)

6. Thank you for calling Zee Company, how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I help you? (can‟t / may)

7. If I go to New York, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see the Statue of Liberty. (will / would)

8. If I went to New York, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ see the Statue of Liberty. (will / would)

9. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happen, but it is very unlikely. (shall / could)

10. Emma \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go out tonight, her parents said no. (can‟t / may)

1. **Match the two columns to identify the use of each modal verb.**
2. Abe should call Lyla soon after their first date. a. obligation
3. Lyla should be happy to get his call. b. possibility
4. Abe calls but she doesn‟t pick up, she must be working. c. low probability
5. No problem, he can call her back later. d. rational probability
6. Later he tells her they could go out to dinner again. e. certainty
7. She says she may be available Friday. f. polite request
8. Abe asks if he can call her back Friday morning. g. permission
9. She says she could be in a meeting, the afternoon is better. h. advice
10. Friday afternoon, Abe asks: May I pick you up at 6 pm? i. capacity
11. He must be on time to make a good impression. j. suggestion
12. **Complete the sentences with a modal verb from this list, without using the same one twice: can, could, may, might, should, must, shall, will, would**
13. Children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go to school.
14. Before you make a decision, you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ speak to a specialist.
15. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ride a horse, I love horse riding.
16. Let‟s go,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we?
17. Jake\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ speak some English before the training.
18. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I please speak to Mrs. Sanders?
19. I promise I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ buy you a new phone.
20. He\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ join us later, he is not sure.
21. If I were you, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take this opportunity.
22. **Match each sentence to a sentence with the same meaning.**
23. Jack must write a report tomorrow.
24. Jack couldn’t write it yesterday.
25. Jennifer says she can help him tomorrow.
26. She has to help him, or the report will not be finished on time.
27. Jennifer’s boss says she may help Jack.
28. She needs to help him, or the report will not be finished on time.
29. Jennifer’s boss says she is allowed to help Jack.
30. Jack will have to write a report tomorrow.
31. Jennifer says she will be able to help him tomorrow.
32. Jack wasn’t able to write it yesterday
33. **True or False?**
34. The most polite modal verb to ask for permission is “may”. true / false
35. We use “to” between a modal verb and another verb. true / false
36. We can use the future with modal verbs. true / false
37. “Could” is the past of “can”. true / false
38. **Match each situation on the left to a modal verb on the right.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Situation** | **Match** | **Modal Verb** |
| 1. rational probability
 |  | 1. must
 |
| 1. very high probability
 |  | 1. would
 |
| 1. suggestion
 |  | 1. should
 |
| 1. past of „will‟
 |  | 1. could
 |

1. **Put these sentences in the past.**
2. I can get in, because I am invited.

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1. We must finish our work before going out.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. You should ask a professional to fix your roof.

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1. You may understand his explanation.

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1. **Put these sentences in the future.**
2. I can get in, because I am invited.

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1. We must finish our work before going out.

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1. He can fly a kite.

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1. You would listen carefully.

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