

modal verbs

They are modal verbs they will simply indicate whether or not we are sure of something.

Example

Must It is when we are 99% correct that it has happened like this or that it is like that.

Example It is when we are 1. He owns three apartments. He must be wealthy.

• My dog hasn't eaten in two days. He must be sick.

Can't, on the contrary of must it when we are sure that something is not so that it is impossible.

Example Louis got married yesterday. She can't be at the office now.

When we are not sure about something at all, we can use different modal verbs:

Could → maybe (not sure)

Situation

Present → My infinitive

Present Continuous - MV + be + ing

Past Simple - MV + have + V3

Past Continuous - MV + have been + ing

The modal verbs are

1 Can

2 must

3 shall

4 will

5 could

6 might

7 should

8 would

9

We use modals to show if we believe something is certain, possible or impossible

• My keys must be in the car

• It might rain tomorrow

• That can't be Peter's coat it's too small

we also use them to do things like talk about ability, permission and make request and offers:

I can't swim

• May I ask a question?

• Could I have some tea please?

• Would you like some help?

Probability

We use may, might and could to say that something is possible but not certain:

- They may come by car (maybe they will take)

- They might be at home (maybe they are at home)

- If we don't hurry, we could be late

- We use can to make general statements about what is possible

Ability

- We use can and can't to talk about someone's skill or general do/little things

• She can speak several languages

• He can swim like a fish

We use can and can't to talk about the ability to do something at a specific time in the present or future:

• I can see you

• Help! I can't breathe

We use could and couldn't to talk about the past:

• He could speak several

• I couldn't see you

Permission

We can use to ask for permission to do something

• Can I ask a question, please?

• Can we go home now?

• Could is more formal and polite than can

• Could we go home now?

Requests, offers and invitations

Requests

We use could now... and would you... as

polite ways of telling or asking someone to do something

• Could you take a message please?

• Could you carry this for me please?

Suggestion and Obligations

Suggestions

We use should and shouldn't to suggestions and give advice

• You should send an email

• You shouldn't go by train

We also use could to make positive suggestions

• We could meet at the weekend

• You could eat out tonight

Obligations

We use must and mustn't to say it is necessary (or not) to do

• You must stop at a red light

• Everyone must bring something to eat

• You can wear what you like but you must

• I'm sorry but you mustn't make a

Modals of ability

Can, could, can't, should

Activity modal verbs

1. Could you swim when you were 10?

2. We couldn't get to the meeting on time yesterday because the train was delayed by one hour.

3. He could arrive at the party on time even after missing the train, so he was very please.

4. It's amazing he can speak five languages.

5. I can drive a car till in was then I moved to the other side so I had to learn.

9. Can you help me please

B. you should do more sport if you want to lose weight

C. You must do your homework first if you want me let you go out with your friends.

D. Drivers must drive over the speed limit

E. I can't speak Chinese it too difficult

F. She should take an umbrella it's going to rain

G. We can take photos inside

H. I think we shouldn't take this road

I. You look pale you should sit down and have a glass of water

J. We must stop when the traffic light is red

K. How can you say such a thing

probability may might and could

ability can could

permission can could may

request could would can will

offers and invitations can shall could

suggestion should could

obligation must had to couldn't