



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: Grade 8	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: April 2021
Worksheet No: 3	Topic: MODAL VERBS STUDY NOTES	Note: English Language Reference Material

Meaning of Modal Verbs:

- ✚ Modals also called **modal verbs, modal auxiliary verbs, modal auxiliaries.**
- ✚ Modals are special verbs which behave irregularly in English.
- ✚ They are different from normal verbs like "work, play, visit..."
- ✚ They give additional information about the *function* of the main verb that follows it. They have a great variety of *communicative functions*.

Here are some characteristics of modal verbs:

- ✚ They never change their form. You can't add "s", "ed", "ing"...
- ✚ They are always followed by an infinitive without "to" (the bare infinitive.)
- ✚ They are used to indicate modality allow speakers to express certainty, possibility, willingness, obligation, necessity, ability

List of modal verbs:

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

The verbs or expressions *dare, ought to, had better*, and *need not* behave like modal auxiliaries to a large extent and are added to the above list

Use of modal verbs:

Modal verbs are used to express functions such as:

1. Permission
2. Ability
3. Obligation
4. Prohibition
5. Lack of necessity
6. Advice
7. possibility
8. probability

Here is a list of modals with examples:

Modal Verb	Expressing	Example
must	Strong obligation	You must stop when the traffic lights turn red.
	logical conclusion / Certainty	He must be very tired. He's been working all day long.
must not	prohibition	You must not smoke in the hospital.
can	ability	I can swim.
	permission	Can I use your phone please?
	possibility	Smoking can cause cancer.
could	ability in the past	When I was younger I could run fast.
	polite permission	Excuse me, could I just say something?
	possibility	It could rain tomorrow!
may	permission	May I use your phone please?
	possibility, probability	It may rain tomorrow!
might	polite permission	Might I suggest an idea?
	possibility, probability	I might go on holiday to Australia next year.
need not	lack of necessity/absence of obligation	I need not buy tomatoes. There are plenty of tomatoes in the fridge.

should/ought to	50 % obligation	I should / ought to see a doctor. I have a terrible headache.
	advice	You should / ought to revise your lessons
	logical conclusion	He should / ought to be very tired. He's been working all day long.
had better	advice	You 'd better revise your lessons

Modal verbs are followed by an infinitive without "to", also called the **bare infinitive**.

Examples:



1. You **must** stop when the traffic lights turn red.
2. You **should** see to the doctor.
3. There are a lot of tomatoes in the fridge. You **need not** buy any.

Reference Books:

MCB: Pg.9

Great Fun with Grammar: Pg.110

Extended Learning Resources:

-  <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-grammar/can-could-would-invitations-offers-requests-permission>
-  <https://eslflow.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Invitations-and-requests-2021.pdf>