



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS – IX	DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH	2026-2027
QUESTION BANK	TOPIC- MODALS	

MODALS

What are modals? Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs that express the speaker's attitude towards an action or situation. They show ability, possibility, permission, obligation, necessity, advice, intention, prediction, or willingness. Common modals include **can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, and would**. Semi-modals such as **ought to, have to, need to, and used to** also express similar meanings.

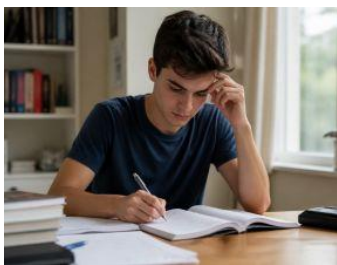
A modal is placed before the main verb: **She can swim**. The modal does not change with the subject: **I can swim, he can swim, and they can swim**. After most modals, use the base form of the verb without **to**: **must study, should revise, might rain**. Modals do not take **-s, -ed, or -ing** forms: write **He can speak**, not *He cans speak*.

Compare the meanings: **You can leave now** expresses permission, **You should leave now** gives advice, and **You must leave now** expresses strong necessity. The modal changes the speaker's attitude even though the main verb remains the same.

- **Basic structure:** Subject + modal + base verb + rest of sentence. Example: **The students should complete the task carefully**. For questions, place the modal before the subject: **Could you help me?** For negatives, add **not** after the modal: **You must not touch the equipment**.

Types and Uses of Modals

The meaning of a modal depends on the context. Study the picture-supported examples below and notice how the same action can communicate different levels of certainty, politeness, or responsibility.

Modal use and picture	Description and examples
 1. Ability	Use can for present ability and could for past ability: I can solve this problem. She could swim when she was five. Use be able to when another tense is needed: He will be able to join us tomorrow.



2. Permission

Use **can** and **may** to ask for or give permission.
Can I borrow your notes? is common and informal.
May I come in? is more formal.
Could I use your calculator? is a polite request.



3. Possibility

Use **may**, **might**, and **could** when something is possible but not certain:
It may rain this evening.
The bus might arrive late.
This answer could be correct.
Might often suggests a weaker possibility than **may**.



4. Obligation and necessity

Use **must** for a strong rule or obligation:
Students must wear safety goggles.
 Use **have to** for an obligation caused by a rule or situation:
We have to submit the form today.
Need to expresses necessity: **You need to revise regularly.**



5. Advice

Use **should** and **ought to** to give advice or express what is sensible:
You should check your answers.
We ought to respect the environment.
 The negative **should not** gives advice against an action:
You should not waste water.



6. Prediction and intention

Use **will** for predictions, decisions, promises, and willingness:

The team will practice tomorrow.

I will help you.

Use **shall** with **I** or **we** for offers and suggestions in formal or polite language: **Shall we begin?**



7. Polite requests

Use **could**, **would**, and **would you mind** to make requests more polite:

Could you explain this rule?

Would you open the window, please?

Would you mind waiting for a moment?



8. Past habits

Use **used to** for a past habit or state that is no longer true:

I used to walk to school.

Do not confuse it with **be used to**, which means being accustomed to something:

She is used to waking early.



Common mistakes to avoid: Do not add -s after a modal: write **She can speak**, not *She can speaks*. Do not use **to** after most modals: write **You must leave**, not *You must to leave*. Remember that **must not** means prohibition, while **do not have to** means lack of necessity.

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

Fill in each blank with a suitable modal or semi-modal. Use the meaning of the sentence as your guide.

1. You _____ wear a seat belt while travelling in a car.
2. _____ I borrow your science notes, please?
3. When my father was young, he _____ run ten kilometers without stopping.
4. The sky is cloudy, so it _____ rain later.
5. You _____ revise the formulae before the test.
6. We _____ submit the project by Monday because it is compulsory.
7. I _____ help you carry those books if you wish.
8. _____ we visit the heritage museum tomorrow?
9. Students _____ not use mobile phones during the examination.
10. She _____ be at home, but I am not certain.
11. You _____ bring your own lunch; the school will provide it.
12. My grandmother _____ tell us stories every evening when we were children.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Modal

Choose the most suitable option. Pay attention to certainty, politeness, obligation, and advice.

13. You (must / might) submit the examination form before the deadline.
14. (Could / Must) you explain this difficult question once more, please?
15. We (should / can) protect Oman's beaches from plastic waste.
16. The answer (may / shall) be correct, but let us check it carefully.
17. You (must not / do not have to) enter the laboratory without permission.

18. I (will / might) help you with the display if I finish my work early.
19. (Shall / Might) we begin the group discussion now?
20. Students (ought to / may) respect different opinions during a debate.
21. He (could / must) be the new captain; nobody has confirmed it yet.
22. You (need to / can) save your work before closing the computer.

Exercise 3: Passage Completion

Complete each passage with suitable modals. More than one answer may be possible in some contexts.

Passage 1: School Science Fair

Every participant _____ display the project clearly. Students _____ bring unsafe materials into the laboratory. They _____ ask the teacher for help if they face a problem. The judges _____ announce the results at the end of the day.

Passage 2: A Responsible Traveller

A responsible traveller _____ respect local customs and _____ keep public places clean. Visitors _____ ask permission before photographing people. They _____ not damage historical buildings. If the weather changes suddenly, travellers _____ return to a safe place.

Passage 3: Planning for the Future

If I work consistently, I _____ improve my results. I _____ organise my time instead of postponing every task. My friends _____ support me, and we _____ celebrate our progress together. I know that success _____ take patience and effort.