

Modal Verbs

6

Sample Sentences

- 1 If he has time, Kevin may help me move.
- 2 Mia can speak Russian, but she can't speak German.
- 3 If it rains, I might not go to the beach.
- 4 You should stay home and study tonight.

Modals: Form and Placement

- Modals do not have *-s*, *-ed*, or *-ing* endings.
- The base form of the verb follows the modal verb.
- Make modals negative by placing *not* right after the modal.

Modals and Their Meanings

Modal verbs give additional meaning to the main verb.

	Use	Example
can	ability request	Alex can walk on his hands. Can I talk to you later?
could	future possibility request past ability	This could end in a disaster. Could you speak more slowly? Once I could play the violin, but I've forgotten how.
may	permission future possibility	You may wait outside my office. Emilia may win a medal if she continues to practice.
might	possibility	If I ask nicely, my parents might let me have the car tonight.
must	obligation	Daniel must visit his grandmother on Sunday.
should	advice	You should eat more vegetables.
will	prediction promise	Coach thinks we will win the state championship this year. I will call you tomorrow.
would	preference invitation	I would like iced tea, please. Would you play tennis with me?

	Simple	Perfect (have)	Progressive (am + -ing)	Perfect Progressive (have + been + -ing)
Present	I jump.	I have jumped.	I am jumping.	I have been jumping.
Past	I jumped.	I had jumped.	I was jumping.	I had been jumping.
Future (will)	I will jump.	I will have jumped.	I will be jumping.	I will have been jumping.
Present	She walks.	She has walked.	She is walking.	She has been jumping.
Past	She walked.	She had walked.	She was walking.	She had been walking.
Future (will)	She will walk.	She will have walked.	She will be walking.	She will have been walking.
Present	The dog barks.	The dog has barked.	The dog is barking.	
Past	The dog barked.	The dog had barked.	The dog was barking.	The dog has been barking.
Future (will)	The dog will bark.	The dog will have barked.	The dog will be barking.	
Present	You fall.	You have fallen.	You are falling.	You have been falling.
Past	You fell.	You had fallen.	You were falling.	You had been falling.
Future (will)	You will fall.	You will have fallen.	You will be falling.	You will have fallen.
Present	We cheer.	We have cheered.	We are cheering.	We have been cheering.
Past	We cheered.	We had cheered.	We will be cheering.	We had been cheering.
Future (will)	We will cheer.	We will have cheered.	We will be cheering.	We will have been cheering.

Modal verbs: shall/should, will/would, can/could, may/might/must, have to/be able to

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