

## Lesson three : Modals in English

-Modal verbs in English are auxiliary verbs that provide additional meaning to the main verb in the sentence. They may include one the following: **Can, could, may, might, must, shall, should , ought to, will, and would.**

-Modals do not accept conjugation and they do not need other auxiliary verbs to appear with them.

- There is no 's' in singular forms, no do or does in questions, and no 'don't' 'doesn't' in the negative form.

\*Would you like to help me?    Do you would like to help me? (**incorrect**)

\*He cannot be serious            He doesn't can be serious (**incorrect**)

-Modals do not have infinitive forms, but they are followed by an infinitive without to.

### Examples:

-She must visit her mom (strong obligation)

-We should have gone the other way (recommendation)

-I could play tennis in my childhood (ability in the past)

\*Modals can use other verbs to complete the tenses . Can is completed with be able to. Must is completed with have to.

### Examples:

-They can play the piano            -They will be able to play the piano in future

-You must inform her                -You have to inform her

<b>Modal</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Will	Future	Mary will travel to England next month
Might	Small probability	I might move to France
Should	Recommendation	You should go to the dentist
Ought to	Formal recommendation	We ought to know about the news
May	Permission	May I come?
Must	Obligation	Everyone must obey to the law
Would	Past (used to)	When I was young, I would play football
Would	Present unreal	I would buy the car but I can't afford it
Shall	Educated expression offer	Shall I clean it?
Shall	Contractual obligation	The firm shall pay on March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Could	Unreal ability	I could go if I had time
Could	Past ability	She could speak French
Can	Present ability	We can speak German
Can	Permission	Can I have the book?

## Examples:

- 1- I can speak French ( ability )
- 2- Can I meet you today? ( permission )
- 3- She can't be your mother, she is so young (probability)
- 4- Can I borrow your car? (Permission)
- 5- It might rain tomorrow ( probability)
- 6- It could rain tomorrow (probability)
- 7- Could I see your passport please? (permission)
- 8- He must be her brother; they look alike (possibility)
- 9- I have to prepare for my examination ( obligation)
- 10- Shall I help you? (offer)
- 11- You should watch the movie, it's excellent (advice)
- 12- You had to attend to the course (obligation)
- 13- Would you like a drink? (offer)

## Practice :

### \*Choose the right answer:

- 1- My son.....be home by now. Where can he be?  
a- Have to            b-would            c-should            d-could
- 2- I think your thumb is broken. You.....go to the emergency room.  
a- Might            b-could            c-ought to            d-can
- 3- If you are interested in losing weight, you.....try this new diet.  
a- Could            b-mustn't            c-ought to            d-can
- 4- John's fallen down the stairs! I.....call an ambulance!

a- Will                      b-might                      c-don't have to                      d-had to

5- You.....come too early. We won't leave till 9 pm.

a-has to                      b-must                      c-needn't                      d-can't

6- They.....hear him because he was whispering.

a-must                      b-had to                      c-can't                      d-shouldn't

**\*Rewrite the following sentences using modals so that they have the same meaning.**

1- I suggest that you get a good lawyer.

You.....

2- A university degree isn't necessary for that job.

You.....

3- Perhaps my father will pick you up.

My father.....

4- Eating is forbidden in classes

You.....

5- Look at his dirty clothes! I'm sure he is a poor person.

He.....

**Key answers:**

**Part one:**

- 1- c-should
- 2-c-ought to
- 3-a-could
- 4-a-will

- 5-c-needn't
- 6-d-couldn't

**Part two:**

- 1-Should get a lawyer.
- 2-Needn't have a university degree for that job.
- 3-May/might pick you up
- 4-Mustn't eat in class
- 5-Must be a poor person