Can, Should, May, Must



Modals

Modals are helping verbs.

can	could
shall	should
may	must



Uses of Modals

They help the main verb to express:

– ability

Example: He **can** help you with the essay.

– possibility

Example: The students **may** do well in the exams.



– suggestion

Example: We **should** ask the teacher for help.

– necessity

Example: You **must** finish your lunch before the bell rings.

Uses of Modals

Modals	Function	Example
can	express ability	I **can** meet you on Sunday for dinner.
should	give a suggestion or a piece of advice	You **should** never hurt animals.
may	seek permission; express possibility	**May** I see your new book? I **may** come to your new house next week.
must	fulfil an obligation; give strong advice; give emphasis to one's opinion	You **must** complete the homework before you sleep.





Try and Learn

Fill in the blanks with the correct modal.

1. Tina is suffering from fever. You _____ take her to the doctor.
2. Judy _____ not be coming to the party tomorrow.
3. Children _____ obey their parents.
4. I _____ finish my homework before 7 pm.
5. The teacher _____ take a surprise test tomorrow.

