Modals



Modals/Modal Auxiliaries

Modals are helping verbs.

can	could
will	would
shall	should
may	might
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.

– certainty

Example: The teacher will clear your doubts.

– 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.
could	express ability in past; seek permission	I **could** have met you last Sunday for dinner. **Could** you please postpone the dinner as I am busy on Sunday?
will	express determination	India **will** win the T-20 cricket match.
would	make a request, enquiry or an offer	**Would** you please drop this letter in the letter box? I **would** like to have a cup of tea, please.
shall	give a suggestion	**Shall** we go for a walk?
should	give a suggestion or a piece of advice	You **should** never hurt animals.
may	seek permission; express possibility	**May** I see the new book you bought? 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.

Your Turn

Fill in the blanks with the correct modal verb.

1. Tina is suffering from fever. You _____ take her to the doctor.
2. Judy _____ come to the party tomorrow.
3. Children _____ obey their parents.
4. I _____ watch a film at 7 pm.
5. The baby _____ pick up the toy.

