Modal verbs are handy to help us talk about the moods that we want to give to our sentences.
Star puts the B2 level modals roughly into the two main groups you see below. Four can go in *both* groups!

1. Decide into which of the two categories – or both! – the modals can go, and "tick" the correct boxes.









____	____	can		____	____	had better
____	____	have to		____	____	might
____	____	would		____	____	ought to
____	____	must		____	____	could
____	____	shall		____	____	may
____	____	will		____	____	should

Do this first page BEFORE going on to the next pages!!!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Here's the "POSSIBLE – IMPOSSIBLE" group, first. There are seven (OK, eight, incl. *shall*) ranging from SURE to UNSURE. Click on, drag, & drop them into the right places: COULD - MIGHT - MAY* - WOULD - CAN* - MUST - WILL** .

? !

UNSURE SURE

....

|_____|

*In formal English, we use "may" for permission and possibility, while we use "can" for ability. In informal/everyday English, many use "can" for "may."

**American English uses "will" for all personal pronouns; British English can use "shall" for first person singular and plural for asking for a decision.

3. SHOW OFF TIME! Use your new knowledge about (im)possibilities and (im)probabilities for ticking the correct answers:

a. There's a very slim chance that she ..... will / ..... might finish that book by noon, today. 

b. My friend told me that when she turned two years old, she said to herself, "Now, I ..... can / ..... may lift that chair."

c. There's a relatively good chance that it ..... could / ..... might rain, tonight. 

4. You can speculate and predict about possibilities and probabilities using a few of these, too: might, could, must, and will. Their strengths from SURE to UNSURE are the same as above. Choose the correct answers from the pull-down menus.

a. The postman comes every day at 3:30 PM sharp. It's 3:30 PM. I hear a noise. It... .....

b. The postman comes every day around 3:30 PM. It's about 3:15 PM. I hear a noise. It... ..... 

c. The postman comes every day around 3:30 PM. It's only 2:30 PM. I hear a noise. It... .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. Next comes the group "SUGGESTION (SUGG) – DUTY – NECESSITY – OBLIGATION (OBLIG)". There are nine of these; some are also in the first group. The SUGGESTION – DUTY – NECESSITY – OBLIGATION range starts with a mere suggestion (SUGG) with NO sense of guilt*, but immediately proceeds to increasing senses of duty and guilt until reaching the strongest possible kind of obligation (OBLIG); these four sections are separated with "|" below. Click on, drag, and drop these words into the right places on the line: HAVE TO · NEED · SHALL · COULD · SUPPOSED TO · OUGHT TO · HAD BETTER · SHOULD · MUST .



OBLIG



SUGG

.... | .... | .... | .....

|_____|

*For suggestions with a LITTLE bit of guilt, you also can say, "It would be great, if you would/could..."



6. SHOW OFF TIME! Use your new knowledge to choose the correct answers from the pull-down menus:

a. "Oh, you have an afternoon off? You... ..... go see Auntie B."

b. "Oh well, I haven't been to see Auntie B. for awhile, so I guess I... ..... go see her."

c. "Oh dear, I haven't been to see Auntie B. for awhile, so I guess I... ..... go see her."

d. "Oh no! I haven't been to see Auntie B. for awhile, so I guess I... ..... go see her."

e. "I miss Auntie B. I really... ..... go see her."

f. "Mom says that I... ..... go see Auntie B."

g. "The appointment was for today. I... ..... see Auntie B., but she can't. Now what can I do?!"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Here's more fun stuff that we can do with modals. Remember that some of the simple conditionals can also function as a PAST TENSE. When we use them this way, it's usually for PAST HABITS, PREDICTING FUTURE HABITS BASED ON THE PAST, or for the FUTURE IN THE PAST. Try them out by TICKING the correct answers for these questions:



a. "Oh, you! You… ….. would write / ….. would have written that!"

b. When he grew up, little Manzoni... ….. would write / … would have written an Italian classic.

c. Even when he was little, Leopardi… ….. would always write / ….. would have always written poems.

d. Had he had the time, D'Annunzio… ….. would only write / ….. would only have written plays.

8. We can also use modals in their simple conditional (ex., could go) or composite conditional forms (ex., could have gone) to talk about preferences and regrets. Of course, if you want to talk about preferences, you can also use "**want**" in English (*it's not as strong as it is in some other languages*) when you want to be more matter-of-fact (use *please*, too!); or use "**hope**" when it's not sure, but possible; or "**wish**" when it's desired, but impossible. Click on the pull-down menu, & choose the right options:



a. Yes, thanks, I… ……. …a second piece.

b. A movie or dinner out? He… ……. …see a movie.

c. She had to stay late. She… ……. …left, earlier.

d. Star… ……. …go to India, this Christmas.

9. SHOW OFF TIME! Just for fun, tell us about a recent experience using modals! (*ungraded*)

……

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WORD CLOUDS: Created by S.K. Meyer using the free program https://www.wordclouds.com/, 22 Oct 2020

N.B., the Clipart images used to create this file were available in the Microsoft Word program used to create it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS