High School. Colegio Patriarca San Jose.
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Subject: Listening/Speaking
Level: 9th Grade

Self-Study Guide.
UNIT 6

Listening Strategy: Modal Verbs

In listening passages, it is important to understand the intention of the speaker. Modal verbs can indicate what the speaker wants or intends. A modal verb is a helper verb that can give extra meaning. They are used to express suggestions, requests, and permission. Recognizing modal verbs is most important in Parts 2 and 3 of the TOEIC® test.

Some Common Modal Verbs:

Of Suggestion	Of Request	Of Permission
had better (strong) should (moderate) could (weak)	would could can (less formal)	could may can (less formal)

Helpful Hints:

Pronouns and nouns can help you decide the meaning of the modal. *"Could I . . ."* is more likely to be asking permission. *"Could you . . ."* is more likely to be a request.

Note *"Would you mind if"* is a phrase of permission, but *"would you mind -ing"* is a phrase of request.

Could → suggestion, request, or permission possible

Read the following examples:

Ex 1 **Listen to the question and choose the correct response.**

Could I use your bathroom?

"I" → more likely permission

(A) I'll get it for you. → unrelated to any modal question

(B) No, it's all finished. → unrelated to any modal question

(C) Of course. It's down the hallway. → giving permission to do *(correct answer)*

Ex 2 **Listen to the conversation and choose the best answer.**

M: What's going on?

W: There's water everywhere!

M: There must be a plumbing problem. You had better call a plumber.

W: But it's Sunday. No one works on Sundays.

M: Could I try doing something? I'm good at fixing things.

"had better" → strong suggestion

Could & I → most likely permission

What does the man suggest?

(A) Working on Sunday → not about the topic of plumbing

(B) Calling a plumber → matches "had better call a plumber" *(correct answer)*

(C) Fixing it herself → the man asks for permission to try to fix it

(D) Going somewhere else → not mentioned

A. ***Practice.*** **Listen to the following questions or statements.**

How was the modal used?

Choose the correct answer.

1. suggestion	request	permission
2. suggestion	request	permission
3. suggestion	request	permission
4. suggestion	request	permission
5. suggestion	request	permission
6. suggestion	request	permission
7. suggestion	request	permission
8. suggestion	request	permission

B. Listen to the following questions or statements. Choose the best response.

1. (A) OK, I'll do that.
(B) Great idea!

2. (A) Sure, sorry.
(B) Go ahead.

3. (A) It works well.
(B) Sorry, I'm using it.

4. (A) I'm not sure.
(B) Sure, it's cold in here.

5. (A) But I like literature!
(B) I practice a lot.

6. (A) When you have the time.
(B) Go ahead.

"Self- assessment of my performance" **Al terminar por completo el trabajo, autoevalúo el nivel de desempeño alcanzado.**			
I type an (X) in the level that best represents my obtained performance in each indicator.			
Indicators of Learning	Performance Levels		
	To achieved: ***(Beginner)*** Learner is in process to achieve the task. Learner presents some issues	***In progress:*** ***(Intermediate)*** Learner can achieve the task with some difficulty and needs improvement	***Achieved:*** *(Advanced)* Learner can achieve the task without any difficulty.
The student recognizes modals in listening contexts in order to solve some multiple choice tasks.			