MODALS

Modals are those helping verbs, which express the 'mode' or 'manner' of the actions indicated by the main verbs. They express modes such as ability, possibility, probability, permission, obligation, etc.

The most commonly used modals are shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, used to, need and dare.

Modals are used to:

- **Ask permission**—may, can, could Examples: May I come in?

  Could I use your pen, please?
- **Make a request**—can, could

  Example: Could you please give me the doctor's telephone number?
- **Express a possibility**—may, might, could

  Example: It might rain during the night.
- **Give advice or suggestion**—should

  Example: You should wear a helmet while riding your motorbike.
- **Express necessity or compulsion**—must, have to

  Examples: We must slow down while driving in front of a school.

  I have to submit my project by tomorrow.
- **Express prohibition**

  Example: You must not talk loudly in the library.
- **Express a promise or intention**—will, shall Example:I will mail you my address.
- **Express a wish**—may

  Example: May you have a long life!

☯ A modal does not change according to the number or person of the subject.

Examples: He can learn. I can learn. You can learn.

They can learn. We can learn.

- A modal is always used with a verb in its basic form. The modal takes the tense while the main verb remains in its dictionary form.

Examples: I can run. I may run.

I could run. I might run.

- Modals can be used alone in response to a question.

Examples: Can you sing? I can.

Will you sing? I will.

Will you come? I may./I will.

- Modals, when joined with 'not' to form a negative, can be contracted.

Examples: I cannot run. I can't run.

I do not run. I don't run.

I will not run. I won't run.

WORKSHEET 8

I. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by using appropriate modals.

a) _____ you please tell me the direction to the hotel?

b) You _____ pay in cash. They do not accept credit cards.

c) I _____ come home from the office today.

d) _____ I help you?

e) You _____ clean your room.

f) We _____ keep the lights and fans switched off when they are not in use.

g) We _____ improve the existing education system.

h) _____ you have a wonderful day!

i) I _____ go to see the movie. The reviews are good.

j) I _____ definitely be at the airport to receive you.

k) She _____ take her meals regularly.

l) You _____ reach home before eleven, she said.

m) _____ we go for a walk?

n) The soldiers in the Army _____ wear a uniform.

o) There is one more point I _____ refer to.

p) You have worked hard. You _____ pass.

q) It is very cloudy. It _____ rain.

r) You _____ be properly dressed when you come to office.

s) _____ you like to come to the party tomorrow?

t) People _____ not tell lies.

II. Fill in the blanks with the correct modals given in the brackets.

God is great and we (a) _____ (should/would) be grateful to him. We (b) _____ (might/should) do our duty and leave the reward in the hands of

God. Ultimately, God (c) _____ (might/will) help us. We (d) _____ (might/should/may) leave everything to God.

III. There is a missing word in each line of the following passage. Mark the place of the missing word with a '/' and write the correct word. Write the word before and after the word in your answer sheet.

People /not ask a writer why he writes his	a) People need not.
biography. They know that every life	b) _____
be interesting if properly presented.	c) _____
Moreover, we learn many things if	d) _____
we want to from a great life. It not be	e) _____
necessarily the life of a great leader that inspire us.	f) _____

IV. There is an error in each line of the passage that follows. Write the incorrect and correct word in your answer sheet.

Plastic bags are not be used because	a) are should
they should cause much pollution.	b) _____
They need never disintegrate with	c) _____
time. They should block the sewerage.	d) _____
It need to melted and reprocessed	e) _____
but that might make it even more	f) _____
harmful. Even if buried they can	g) _____
never be destroyed. They should be	h) _____
useful today but they would be	i) _____
very harmful for the coming generations.	j) _____

V. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line.Write the incorrect word and the correct word in the answer sheet.

The label can be removed before cooking.	a) _____ _____
Then the cookware could be rinsed in	b) _____ _____
warm soapy water. It is advisable to keep	c) _____ _____
to low heat. The cookware would never	d) _____ _____
be used on high heat. Very high	e) _____ _____
temperatures would cause sticking. The	f) _____ _____

handles used to also loosen. However, one should not worry about the maintenance as it is quite easy. The vessel might be cleaned with liquid detergent. One cannot use sharp detergent for cleaning.

g) _____ _____
h) _____ _____
i) _____ _____
j) _____ _____
k) _____ _____

VI. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals from the ones given in the box below.

should	might	can	could	have to	must

a) Ritu's flight from Morocco took more than 11 hours. She _____ be exhausted after such a long flight. She _____ prefer to stay in tonight and get some rest.

b) If you want to get a better feeling for how Raniganj is laid out, you_____ walk down town and explore the riverside.

c) You _____ research the route a little more before you set sail.

d) When you have a small child in the house, you _____ leave small objects lying around.

e) Anvesha: _____ you hold your breath for more than a minute?

Bunty: No, I can't.

f) Jasprit's engagement ring is enormous! It _____ have cost a fortune.

g) Please make sure to feed the fish while I am gone. If they don't get enough food, they _____ die.

h) I _____ speak Assamese fluently when I was a child.

i) The teacher said we _____ read the book if we needed extra credit.

j) The spatula _____ be in this cupboard but it's not here.