

1. What are the main characteristics of modals verbs?

- They are always followed by a short infinitive.
- They never use an “s” for the 3rd person singular.
- They don’t need an auxiliary verb to form the negative and interrogative.
- Why are they so special? Because they have many CTFUNIONS.

2. As you read through the examples below, match the functions of the modal verbs:

CAN / COULD

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| 1. I <u>can</u> play the piano. | a. logical deduction |
| 2. I <u>could</u> play the piano when I was four. | b. polite request |
| 3. Although he was tired, he <u>was able to</u> swim to the shore. | c. asking for permission |
| 4. <u>Can</u> I use your phone? | d. repeated ability in the past |
| 5. He <u>could</u> be late. | e. lack of permission |
| 6. <u>Could</u> you close the door, please? | f. possibility in the present |
| 7. You <u>cannot</u> smoke here. | g. non-repeated ability in the past |
| 8. The lights are off, he <u>can't</u> be at home. | h. ability in the present |

MAY / MIGHT

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. You <u>may</u> go home. | a. criticism |
| 2. It <u>may</u> rain later today. | b. permission |
| 3. She <u>may</u> be older, but she isn't wiser than me. | c. possibility |
| 4. You <u>might</u> have told me you weren't coming! | d. lack of permission |
| 5. You <u>may not</u> park here. | e. stating a fact / concession |

MUST

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. You <u>have to</u> present your ticket to the inspector when they ask for it. | a. logical deduction |
| 2. "I <u>must</u> do the right thing!" | b. recommendation |
| 3. He <u>must</u> have taken an early train because he arrived before noon. | c. external obligation |
| 4. Last week I went to the new disco, you really <u>must</u> go there too! | d. internal obligation |

SHALL

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. I/We <u>shall</u> visit you next week. | a. offer to help |
| 2. <u>Shall</u> I/we help you? | b. order |
| 3. What <u>shall</u> I/we do next? | c. promise |
| 4. You <u>shall</u> do exactly as I say! | d. asking for suggestions |

SHOULD / OUGHT TO

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|--|--|
| 1. You <u>should</u> eat healthy food. | a. strong advice / duty / stating how things should be |
| 2. You <u>ought to</u> respect your parents. | b. logical assumption |
| 3. The traffic <u>should</u> be normal now, the rush hour is over. | c. advice |

WILL / WOULD

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Every day is the same: he <u>will</u> sit in front of the window for hours. | a. strong probability |
| 2. When I was ten, I <u>would</u> go swimming every weekend. | b. polite request |
| 3. There's someone at the door. That <u>will</u> be the postman. | c. habit in the present |
| 4. <u>Will</u> you pass the salt, please? | d. habit in the past (action verbs) |
| 5. She is very rude; I <u>won't</u> talk to her again! | e. advice |
| 6. If I were you, I <u>would</u> ask for her opinion as well. | f. decision / promise |