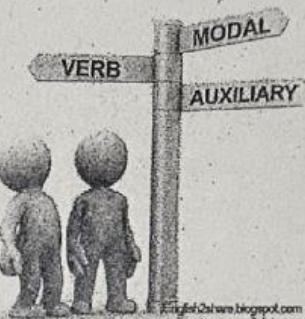


# MODAL VERBS

Modal verbs are a special group of auxiliary verbs. They don't express facts, we use them before other verbs to express attitudes, opinions and judgements of events: *permission, ability, possibility, request, obligation...*

## 1) Correct the following sentences.

1. She cans play the piano.
2. You don't must open the book.
3. Can you to sing?
4. Last year I must work on Saturdays.
5. My sister couldn't her homework.
6. I would like to can play the violin.



They are different from most other verbs in four ways:

1. They are always followed by an infinitive without "to": \* *I may go out tonight.*
2. They have **no -s** on the third person singular: \* *John should study harder.*
3. They **don't need auxiliary** in negatives and questions: \* *Can you help me? - No, I can't*
4. They **don't have tenses, infinitives or participles**: \* *Being able to speak English is very useful nowadays.*

## ABILITY



**CAN** --- Present

\* *My boyfriend can play three musical instruments.*

**COULD** --- Past / Conditional

\* *I could talk when I was two.*

**BE ABLE TO** --- Other tenses

\* *One day, people will be able to visit Mars.*

\* *I have never been able to understand grown-ups.*

\* *I'd like to be able to understand men / women.*

\* *Being able to swim is necessary if you want to go sailing.*

## 2) Complete the sentences with *can('t)*, *could(n't)* or the correct form of *(not) be able to*.

1. It was raining hard, so I ..... go out.
2. I'd love to ..... fly.
3. I ..... see because I'm not wearing my glasses.
4. The police ..... catch him, so he escaped.
5. He ..... play football since he broke his leg.
6. I saw the accident - I might ..... help the police.
7. If you don't tell me what your problem is, I ..... help you.

