

Are you in the mood to use the modal verbs you know...and learn a few more? Of course you are!

1) Let's check first what you already know (or don't!). Decide into which of the two categories – or both! – the modals can go, and "tick" the correct boxes.

predicting
possible
probable
impossible improbable

suggesting
duty
obligation

predicting
possible
probable
impossible improbable

suggesting
duty
obligation

—	—	can		—	—	should
—	—	have to		—	—	might
—	—	would		—	—	needn't
—	—	must		—	—	could
—	—	shall		—	—	may
—	—	will				



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



2) Let's do the "possibility/probability" category, first. CLICK on these modal verbs, DRAG them to the correct boxes on the line, then DROP them.

can

might

will

could

may

would

shall

WEAKEST

STRONGEST

_____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____



3) Before going ahead, let's use some of them! Click on the correct answer.

a) You're an older Brit, so you ask, "Oh, it's cold. Shall / May / Can I close the window?"

b) You're speaking formally to your boss, so you ask, " May / Can I participate in the project?"

c) You're speaking informally to friends, so you ask, " May / Can I come in?"

d) You're only about 40% sure that something's going to happen, so you use could / might .

e) You're only about 15% sure that something's going to happen, so you use could / might .

4) Now let's do the "suggesting-duty-obligation" category. CLICK on these modal verbs, DRAG them to the right box on the line, then DROP them. NOTE: strong and weak have switched!

STRONGEST**WEAKEST**

____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____

*In BrE (British English), "needn't" + the infinitive with no "to" is a "quasi-modal" for "it's not necessary," ex., "He needn't do it."

5) Did you notice that two of the modals are in both of the categories? (In the future, you'll see even more overlapping verbs.) For "suggestion – duty – obligation" verbs, click & draw to connect two halves, correctly.

a) "You could get that book you want."

there is no need to do it

b) "She doesn't have to bring anything."

the motivation source is external (vs. "must")

c) "You should do it."

it is a suggestion with a small sense of guilt

d) "Clients shall pay providers for services provided."

there is a super strong obligation in a contract

e) "The boss says that I have to do it right now."

it is a suggestion with no sense of guilt

6) Try, again! Decide into which of the two categories—or both!—the modals can go. “Tick” the correct boxes.



—	—	can		—	—	should
—	—	have to		—	—	might
—	—	would		—	—	needn't
—	—	must		—	—	could
—	—	shall		—	—	may
—	—	will		—	—	

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