

Modal:	Purpose:	Explanation
Can/Could	Ability	You <u>can</u> do it because you have the <u>ability</u> .
May:	Permission	<u>May</u> indicates if you have <u>permission</u> to do it.
Might:	Possibility	There is a small chance (<25%).
Should:	Propriety	The <u>proper</u> or right way of doing something.
Must:	Need	You <u>have to</u> do something (usually fulfilling a <u>need</u>).
Would:	Conditional/Politeness	If something happens first then I will do it.
Shall:	Promise	When you <u>promise to try</u> something <u>in the future</u> .
Ought to:	Recommendation/ Advice	Advice or an opinion about the right way to do a thing.

Exercise 1: Fill in the missing Modal Helping Verbs in the following sentences:

1. You _____ never run with scissors.
2. I _____ have listened to that advice if I were smarter.
3. A human _____ go for weeks without food, but you _____ drink water almost daily to stay alive.
4. The traffic signal tells us when we _____ drive off.
5. I _____ try my best to be on time from now on, but I'm not making any promises.
6. You _____ listen to the advice of smart people.
7. You _____ run but you _____ not hide from the lion.

Remember: Helping verbs are always on the LEFT of the main verbs. Helping verbs are usually used as linking verbs on their own (when they are the main verb).

Examples: am, is are, was were, will be, be, has, have, had

Exercise 2: Identify the Helping Verbs by rewriting them in the box on the left:

1. I will pay for the damages my cat has caused.
2. You are expected to write full sentences.
3. I am writing a sentence.
4. Yesterday the team was training for the match.
5. Dragons were burning villages back in the old stories.
6. Harold has attempted to break the world record twice.
7. Stanley does care about the quality of his work.
8. Emily and Sarah do lie to their parents very often.
9. Amer did know the answer to the question?
10. Saeed has heard about a fun game to play in class.