

MODAL VERBS

C1

Modals and semi-modals (1)

- 1 Modals (e.g. *could*) and semi-modals (e.g. *need to*) tell us something about the attitude of the speaker. In these sentences, the modals are used for giving instructions and advice. What is the meaning behind each one?

- 1 You **might** want to try this website.
- 2 **Could** I ask for silence now?
- 3 You **must** make a decision before Monday.

- 2 Modal verbs can have other meanings. Match the modal verbs below to the meanings from the box.

ability	negative certainty	making an offer
instruction	permission	request
theoretical possibility		

- 1 **Can** this camera take panoramic shots?
- 2 **Could** I get you something to drink?
- 3 That **can't** be the answer. It doesn't fit.
- 4 **Would** you help me with this question?
- 5 You **should** go through the statistics while I phone the new customers.
- 6 The school **might** take 1,000 pupils.
- 7 You **can** park here, but only if you buy a ticket.

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Prepare some instructions or advice.

- 1 Choose one of the situations below, or a situation of your own.
 - choosing a new phone
 - installing new software
 - following a healthy diet
 - making a study plan
 - staying calm when you're feeling stressed
 - learning new vocabulary
- 2 Think about who you are giving advice to, and how you want to sound. Use appropriate language (e.g. imperatives or modal verbs).



Modal verbs can also be used to speculate about things. Look at the pictures and discuss what happened to the people, what they are doing or what they might have done.

The man in picture A could have fallen into a river.



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