

Modals

Modals are a kind of Helping Verb:

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:	Advice	Advice or an opinion about the right way to do a thing.

Exercise A: Modals: Identify the modals in the following sentences and indicate their purpose on the right.

Modal	Sentence	Purpose
	1. He shall bring the food very soon.	
	2. We might win the championship game.	
	3. I can speak a little Spanish.	
	4. You should stop smoking because it is bad for you.	
	5. May I sit down now?	
	6. Would you kindly be quiet?	
	7. I must go now.	
	8. Would it help if I looked for the treasure too?	
	9. I ought to tell the truth to the teacher.	
	10. Could you pass me the ketchup?	

Total Mark: (/10)