

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

duty
suggesting
obligation

predicting
possible
probable
impossible

duty
suggesting
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!

must

could

should

have to

shall

needn't*

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.

predicting
possible
probable
impossible

suggesting
duty
obligation

predicting
possible
probable
impossible

suggesting
duty
obligation

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

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