Modal verbs are *auxiliary verbs*. They need to be accompanied by another (main) verb. Sometimes modal verbs are called *modal auxiliaries*.

The following words are modal verbs: ***can, could, may, might, must, have to, shall, should, will, would, ought to, need to*** (and *will be able to*).

They are modal auxiliary verbs that provide additional information about the verb that follows it. **Modal verbs are used to express ability, obligation, permission, assumptions, probability and possibility, requests and offers, and advice**. Each modal verb can have more than one meaning which depends on the context of that sentence (or question).

- You **can** go now. (= permission)
- I **can** play the guitar. (= ability)

Modal verbs are easy to use—grammatically.

A Modal verb is followed by another verb in the base form (the infinitive without the 'to') and they are not conjugated (we don't add an 'S' in third person). See the following structure:

Subject + Modal Verb + Verb (base form of the infinitive)

- I **can** speak English (NOT: I can ~~to~~ speak English)
- He **can** speak Spanish (NOT: He can speaks Spanish)
- She **can** speak Spanish (NOT: She cans speak Spanish)

Modal verbs do not change to show tense. There is a different modal verb for each tense.

To form the negative, add *not* after the modal verb.

Subject + Modal Verb + **not** + Verb (base form of the infinitive)

- You **must not** walk on the grass. (= You mustn't walk on the grass.)
- He **cannot** speak Arabic. (= He can't speak Arabic.)
- We **should not** be late. (= We shouldn't be late.)

As you can see in the examples above, contractions of the **modal verb + *not*** are normally possible.

The negative of can is cannot ('not' is joined to 'can') and the contraction is **can't.**

Questions with modals are formed by inversion (like the verb *be*).

Modal Verb + Subject + Verb (base form of the infinitive)

- **May** I help you?
- **Can** I have another piece of cake please?
- **Would** you like to come with us?I

It is important to know that modal verbs have multiple uses. In other words, the same modal can be used to express different things.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

REQUESTS / OFFERS	ABILITY	CERTAINTY / PROBABILLITY	POSSIBILITY	PERMISSION	OBLIGATION/ PROHIBITION	SUGGESTION
will would can could	can could be able to	must should can't	may might could	may might can could	must have to need	should ought to

Let's practice. Express the following ideas using a modal verb (either in the affirmative or the negative).

1. Tell your son that it is **prohibited** to speak loudly in a library.
2. Paul has the **obligation** to work on weekends.
3. Julie has the **ability** to speak 4 languages.
4. There is a **possibility** of rain this afternoon.
5. Give some **advice** to your sister. She never does her homework.
6. Ask for **permission** to enter a room.
7. Your friend drives very fast. Give him some **advice**.
8. Express that your boss **will have the ability** to travel to Russia next month.
9. Tell your neighbor that it **isn't necessary** to call the mechanic.
10. **Offer** to write a report for a colleague.
11. Tell me that you **were able to** swim when you were 7 years old**.**
12. Tell your wife that the children are **probably** asleep now**.**

Create sentences using modal verbs based on the signs below.

1 

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Los verbos modales son *verbos auxiliares*. Necesitan ir acompañados de otro verbo (principal). A veces, los verbos modales se llaman *auxiliares modales*.

Las siguientes palabras son verbos modales: ***can, could, may, might, must, have to, shall, should, will, would, ought to, need to*** (y *will be able to*).

Son verbos auxiliares que proporcionan información adicional sobre el verbo que les sigue. Los verbos modales **se utilizan para expresar capacidad, obligación, permiso, suposiciones, probabilidad y posibilidad, peticiones y ofertas, y consejos**. Cada verbo modal puede tener más de un significado que depende del contexto de esa frase (o pregunta).

- You **can** go. (= permiso)
- I **can** play the guitar. (= habilidad)

Los verbos modales son fáciles de utilizar gramaticalmente.

Un verbo modal va seguido de otro verbo en la forma base (el infinitivo sin el 'to') y no se conjugan (no añadimos una 'S' en tercera persona). Véase la siguiente estructura:

Sujeto + Verbo modal + Verbo (forma base del infinitivo)

- I **can** speak English (NOT: I can ~~to~~ speak English)
- He **can** speak Spanish (NOT: He can speak~~s~~ Spanish)
- She **can** speak Spanish (NOT: She can~~s~~ speak Spanish)

Los verbos modales no cambian para mostrar el tiempo verbal. Hay un verbo modal diferente para cada tiempo.

Para formar el negativo, añade *not* después del verbo modal.

Sujeto + verbo modal + **not** + verbo (forma base del infinitivo)

- You **must not** walk on the grass. (= You mustn't walk on the grass.)
- He **cannot** speak Arabic. (= He can't speak Arabic.)
- We **should not** be late. (= We shouldn't be late.)

Como puedes ver en los ejemplos anteriores, las contracciones del **verbo modal + *not*** son normalmente posibles. El negativo de can es cannot ('not' se une a 'can') y la contracción es **can't.**

Las preguntas con modales se forman por inversión (como el verbo *be*).

Verbo modal + sujeto + verbo (forma base del infinitivo)

- **May** I help you?
- **Can** I have another piece of cake please?
- **Would** you like to come with us?I

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Es importante saber que los verbos modales tienen múltiples usos. En otras palabras, un mismo modal puede utilizarse para expresar cosas diferentes.

REQUESTS / OFFERS	ABILITY	CERTAINTY / PROBABILLITY	POSSIBILITY	PERMISSION	OBLIGATION/ PROHIBITION	SUGGESTION
will would can could	can could be able to	must should can't	may might could	may might can could	must have to need	should ought to

LIVEWORKSHEETS