

LESSON

10



MODAL VERBS - CAN, COULD,
SHOULD, MAY, MUST
(ĐỘNG TỪ KHUYẾT THIẾU - CAN,
COULD, SHOULD, MAY, MUST)

Let's Learn!

Modal verbs (Động từ khuyết thiếu) có các đặc điểm sau:

- Công thức chung:

S + modal verbs + V(bare infinitive).

- Khi đứng sau chủ ngữ ngôi thứ ba số ít thì **không** thêm đuôi -s/es. (Trừ bán khuyết thiếu **have to V** và **need to V**)

E.g. I can **swim**. She can **swim**, too.

E.g. I can → She can (~~she cans~~)

- **Không** có hình thức nguyên thể (to V) và hình thức phân từ (V-ed, P1, P2), danh động từ (V-ing) giống như các động từ thường khác. (Trừ bán khuyết thiếu **have to V**, **ought to V** và **need to V**)

E.g. I can **swim**. She can **swim**, too.

Khi chuyển sang dạng quá khứ, ta dùng từ tương ứng:



shall	→	should
will	→	would
can	→	could
may	→	might
must	→	must

- **Không** dùng trợ động từ do / does / did ... trong câu hỏi, câu phủ định, câu hỏi đuôi mà chính chúng tự đóng vai trò là trợ động từ. (Trừ bán khuyết thiếu **have to** V và **need to** V)

E.g. *I can't swim. She can't swim, either.*

E.g. *Do you can speak English? → Can you speak English?*

Cách dùng động từ khuyết thiếu:

Forms	Meaning	Examples
- can + V - can't + V	- Có thể (năng lực) - Không thể (năng lực)	<i>I can swim. / She can cook. He can't play the piano.</i>
- could + V - couldn't + V	- Có thể (quá khứ) - Không thể (quá khứ)	<i>I could ride a horse when I was ten. She couldn't read when she was five.</i>
- must + V - mustn't + V	- Phải - Không được phép (cấm)	<i>You must finish your homework. You mustn't swim in the lake.</i>
- should + V - shouldn't + V	- Nên (khuyên) - Không nên (khuyên)	<i>You should clean your teeth every day. You shouldn't play computer games.</i>

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- may + V	- Có lẽ (khả năng thấp)	He may go out with his friends.
- may not + V	- Có lẽ không (khả năng thấp)	It may not happen.

Cách dùng động từ khuyết thiếu trong trường hợp giao tiếp và suy đoán hiện tại:

Use	Modal verbs	Examples
PERMISSION (xin phép, cho phép)	Asking for permission (xin phép) Can / Could / May + I + V ?	Can / Could / May I use your pen?
	Giving permission (cho phép) S + can / may + V.	You can / may drink a cup of tea if you want.
REQUEST (yêu cầu, nhờ)	Văn phong thân mật Can / Will + you + V ?	Can you help me with my homework?
	Văn phong lịch sự Could / May + I + V, (please)?	Could / May I have some tea, please?
DEDUCTION (suy đoán)	May (not) / Might (not) / Could (not) + V: có lẽ, có thể Dự đoán điều gì đó có thể xảy ra hoặc không xảy ra ở hiện tại hoặc tương lai, nhưng không chắc chắn, không có minh chứng cụ thể.	Jack may / might / could go home late today, but I'm not sure.
	Must + V: chắc chắn Dự đoán điều gì đó chắc chắn xảy ra ở hiện tại, có minh chứng cụ thể hoặc suy đoán có lô gíc.	His accent is English, so he must come from England.



DEDUCTION (suy đoán)	Can't + V: chắc chắn không Đoán điều gì đó chắc chắn không thể xảy ra ở hiện tại, có minh chứng cụ thể hoặc suy đoán có lô gíc.	Jack can't be at home now because I've just seen him at school.
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Lưu ý: - Mức độ lịch sự (giảm dần): may > could > can

- Mức độ chắc chắn (giảm dần): must > can > may

Một số cụm từ / cấu trúc tương đương với các động từ khiếm khuyết:

1	It's (not) advisable to V S + advise + SB + (not) to V It's (not) a good idea to V S + suggest + S + V If I were you, I would(n't) + V It's time S + V	should V / shouldn't V
2	In case S + V Maybe, S + V Perhaps, S + V It's possible / Possibly / Possibility It's (im)probable / Probably / Probability It's (not) likely	may – may not might – might not
3	It's not (im)possible	can't V
4	It's essential / necessary / important ... / (be) required It is compulsory...	must V have / has / had to V should V need to V

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5	It is / was not essential / (un)necessary / important...	don't / doesn't / didn't have to V needn't V
6	S + be + allowed / permitted + to V	can V
7	S + be + allowed / permitted + to V + without Ving	don't / doesn't / didn't have to V
8	S + be not + allowed / permitted to V Prohibit sb from Ving Forbid sb to V It's against the rules that ...	mustn't V
9	Why don't we V?	Shall we V?
10	It's certain that ... S + be sure that ...	S + must V. S + can't V.

Let's Practice

Exercise 1. Choose the correct answer. (Chọn đáp án đúng.)

- 1 Helen **can** speak French and English.

A. ability
B. asking permission
C. polite request



- 2 **Could** you help me with the laundry?

A. ability
B. asking permission
C. polite request





3 **Can** I close the window? It's cold here.

- A. ability
- B. asking permission
- C. polite request



4 Birds **can** fly high, but dogs **can't**.

- A. ability
- B. asking permission
- C. polite request



5 When I was ten years old, I **could** write a computer program.

- A. ability
- B. asking permission
- C. polite request



6 I **could** swim when I was 2 years old, could you?

- A. ability
- B. asking permission
- C. polite request



7 We **must** wear uniforms in our company.

- A. It's forbidden.
- B. It's a rule.
- C. It's not necessary.



8 You **mustn't** smoke in hospitals.

- A. It's necessary.
- B. It's forbidden.
- C. It's not necessary.



- 9 You really **shouldn't** stay up late.

A. advice
B. It is a law.
C. certainty



- 10 There **may** be a thunderstorm today. I'm not sure.

A. ability
B. advice
C. possibility



Exercise 2. Fill in the blanks with can or can't. (Điền can hoặc can't vào chỗ trống.)



- 1 My sister _____ dance, because she's so shy.
- 2 My brother _____ swim. He loves being in the water.
- 3 _____ you help me with my project?
- 4 Our father _____ take us to the cinema since he has to work until 10 p.m. tonight.
- 5 I _____ sleep because I have just had a cup of coffee.
- 6 _____ we go out this Friday evening?
- 7 _____ you turn on the fan, please?
- 8 The baby _____ run although he is almost 4 years old.
- 9 He _____ be home. I have seen him playing in the park.
- 10 How _____ he get to work?





Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with could or couldn't. (Điền could hoặc couldn't vào chỗ trống.)



- 1 My cousin _____ swim very fast, but now he can't.
- 2 My grandfather _____ run very fast when he was young.
- 3 _____ you bring me a glass of juice?
- 4 _____ Bill skateboard when he was five years old?
- 5 We _____ go camping because there was a storm last week.
- 6 Jane _____ play the guitar many years ago, but now she can.
- 7 _____ Alex win the competition yesterday?
- 8 My car broke down, so I _____ join the festival this morning.
- 9 _____ you show me the way to the airport?
- 10 Tom _____ finish his work because the lights went out.

Exercise 4. Underline the correct answers. (Gạch chân đáp án đúng.)



- 1 I **mustn't / must** get up early because it's good for my health.
- 2 I **mustn't / must** finish my writing on Monday. The deadline is Monday.

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- 3 You **mustn't / must** make noise in the library.
- 4 We **mustn't / must** fasten the seatbelt while we are in the car. 
- 5 She **mustn't / must** go out after 10 p.m. because her parents are very strict.
- 6 I **mustn't / must** clean my room. It looks so untidy.
- 7 We **mustn't / must** walk on grass. 
- 8 She **mustn't / must** wear glasses because she is short-sighted.
- 9 You **mustn't / must** read this novel. It's a best-seller.
- 10 We **mustn't / must** cross the street in a red light.

Exercise 5. Underline the correct answers. (Gạch chân đáp án đúng.)

- 1 It's quite hot today. You **should / shouldn't** wear a hat to avoid getting a sunburn.
- 2 What **should / shouldn't** I do to keep fitter?
- 3 You are better now. You **should / shouldn't** go to school today.
- 4 She can't choose between the two universities. She **should / shouldn't** ask her mother for advice.
- 5 We **should / shouldn't** cut down trees to have a greener world.



- 6 He looks so bored. He **should / shouldn't** listen to music to relax. 
- 7 We **should / shouldn't** turn off the lights before going out.
- 8 Minh **should / shouldn't** revise lessons carefully.
- 9 You **should / shouldn't** do exercises right after having a meal.
- 10 I think Jane **should / shouldn't** find another English tutor. She's irresponsible. 

Exercise 6. Underline the correct answers. (Gạch chân đáp án đúng.)



- 1 She **may / may not** get stuck in a traffic jam. It's rush hour now.
- 2 **May / May not** I come in?
- 3 It's getting dark. Perhaps, it **may / may not** rain.
- 4 Students **may / may not** study in the library until 9 o'clock in the evening.
- 5 **May / May not** I help with your shopping bags?
- 6 People **may / may not** smoke in a lift.
- 7 We **may / may not** leave without John because we're late.
- 8 She isn't at school. She **may / may not** be sick today.

- 9 **May / May not** I take your order?
- 10 That man over there **may / may not** be Frank. He looks taller than Frank.

Exercise 7. Fill in the blanks with the correct modal verbs from the box. (Điền động từ khuyết thiếu vào chỗ trống.)



can't	should	could	may not	must
Could	can	May	couldn't	shouldn't

- We are not completely sure, but Cindy _____ come back tomorrow.
- _____ I have some more cheese, please?
- I _____ believe my eyes. Is this her daughter's drawing?
- He _____ be the richest person in the neighbourhood. He's just bought three new cars.
- He _____ spend more time studying for the final exam.
- _____ I use your mobile phone? It's an emergency.
- Students in our school _____ wear uniforms. It is compulsory.
- Mandy's daughter _____ write perfectly when she was five.
- You _____ take a shower too late.
- The problem was so difficult that even our teacher _____ solve it.



Exercise 8. Choose the correct answers. (Chọn đáp án đúng.)

- ① Ben _____ answer questions quickly because he is very intelligent.
A. can't B. can C. mustn't D. could
- ② You _____ go out without asking for your parents' permission.
A. should B. shouldn't C. won't D. may
- ③ Children _____ swim in the pool without being accompanied by an adult.
A. must B. may C. mustn't D. should
- ④ _____ you help me look after my dogs while I'm away?
A. Should B. Must C. May D. Can
- ⑤ Adults _____ drive without a driving licence.
A. may not B. should C. mustn't D. might not
- ⑥ Whose car is this? – I don't know, but it _____ belong to Sam.
A. may B. must C. should D. will
- ⑦ _____ I come in, please?
A. Should B. May C. Must D. Do
- ⑧ My sister should _____ abroad to get an MBA.
A. go B. goes C. to go D. going

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9 _____ you tell me the way to the nearest bakery?

- A. Do B. Should C. Could D. Must

10 How _____ I help you, sir?

- A. must B. can C. should D. do

Exercise 9. Underline and correct the mistakes. (*Gạch chân và sửa lỗi sai.*)



1 You mustn't to take photos in the museum.

2 Jake can swim well when he was three years old.

3 She can cooks very well.

4 We should don't eat too much sugar.

5 Does Jane can play basketball?

6 You can take me to the airport, Chris?

7 You should to talk to your parents about the test.

8 She may work tomorrow.

9 They couldn't went home early yesterday.

10 Do I may go out, teacher?



Exercise 10. Rewrite the sentences using the prompts. (Viết



lại câu dựa vào phần gợi ý.)

1 Don't park your car on the pavement. It is illegal. (*mustn't*)

2 Perhaps she will agree to lend you some money. (*may*)

3 I want you to tidy up the room. (*must*)

4 I need your help. It's too hard for me. (*must*)

5 Look at that plane. It's over there. (*Can*)

6 It's good for you to eat less spicy food. (*should*)

7 Why don't you stay with us? It doesn't matter. (*can*)

8 Promise me that you'll never ever do it again! (*mustn't*)

9 I don't understand what you're mentioning. (*can't*)

10 It is bad for her to swim without goggles. (*shouldn't*)

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