

Unit 5

Modals

Modals are helping verbs that express certain moods or attitudes such as possibility, permission, suggestion, ability, certainty, necessity and others.

They are always followed by a main verb. They do not change forms according to the subject, or take *-ing*. They also do not require *do* when we use them in questions or negatives.

Examples: I *cannot* tell you where the treasure is hidden.

Could you tell me the way to the harbour?

We *could* go to Manali in May.

I *shall* meet you after the class.

Should I give it a try?

May I sit in the front row?

They *might* take the early train tomorrow.

The team was *able to* retain the championship title.

I *will* bring you *pakor*s when I go to the market.

Would you like to have a sandwich?

I *must* leave now.

They *have to* complete a basic course before they can perform.

Focus

A Can you do the activities mentioned below? Make sentences in each case.

1. speak Spanish—I _____.

My mother _____.

2. use a computer—My grandmother _____.

I _____.

_____.

HABLA ESPANOL?



B Fill in the blanks with *could have, couldn't have, should have, shouldn't have*.

1. The accident was tragic. Those children _____ jumped into the sea for a swim.
2. Mathew was with me when we heard the glass breaking in the kitchen. So he _____ broken it.
3. Ours was the better team. We _____ won the last match.
4. It was my fault. I _____ tried to make toast with the clothes iron.
5. I understand you couldn't come to my house that day, but you _____ telephoned and told me so.

C Fill in the blanks, with *may, might, must or could*, based on the hints.

1. I heard a rumour that our principal is leaving next year. It _____ be true, who knows? (a very weak possibility)
2. Rahul, 'I _____ not come for the trek tomorrow. I am not feeling well.' (a good possibility)
3. Your throat and ears are paining and you have a fever; it _____ be an infection. Let us go to a doctor. (logical possibility)
4. **Tania:** Look at the clouds in the sky, there _____ be a storm. (definitely)
Riya: Oh yes, there was a storm warning on the radio this morning.
Tania: Really? In that case, we _____ have a holiday tomorrow. (a good possibility)

D Combine the sentences using *(not) allowed to*. Pay attention to the tense of the sentences.

1. He wanted to play in the rain. His mother did not let him.

2. The teacher said that she wanted to take a day off. The principal gave her leave.

3. He wanted to address the meeting. They did not give him permission.

4. She wished to explain her strange behaviour. They gave her permission.

E Read the dialogue between a mother and a son. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals. The first one has been done as an example.

Son: Mom, _____ *can* _____ I go out to play now?
Mother: No, you _____ go now. You _____ go when it stops raining.

Son: Why _____ I play in the rain, Mother?
Mother: You know the reason. You _____ fall sick if you play in the rain.

Practice

A Think of a solution for the following situations.

1. We are hungry. There are some eggs in the house.

2. Bilal wanted to read *Arabian Nights*. He did not have a copy.

3. We have a holiday tomorrow. What can we do?

B What will you say in the following situations? Write a wish using *may*.

1. your friend is moving to a new school _____
2. your mother's birthday _____
3. your sister is going for an exam _____

C Natasha has an eye infection. Her doctor suggests that she should do the following. Rewrite the instructions using *must* or *mustn't*.

1. Use the eye drops once a day. _____
2. Drink at least two litres of water a day. _____
3. No watching TV. _____
4. Do not work on the computer. _____
5. Don't strain your eyes. _____

D Complete the sentences using *shouldn't be*, *ought to be*, *must be* or *can't be*.

1. I know her very well. She is not someone who'd steal something. This news _____ true.
2. The bag looks very old. The buttons are rusted, the clasp is broken. The shopkeeper _____ saying it is a top quality product.
3. It is dark outside. It _____ 8 o'clock at least.

E Fill in the blanks with *mustn't*, *ought not to*, *needn't* or *don't/doesn't have to*.

1. As a rule, you _____ take these books out of the library.
2. You _____ make noise when others are sleeping.
3. We can meet him halfway there, he _____ come all the way here to pick us up.

F Choose the correct alternative and fill in the blanks.

1. You _____ inform the authorities before you do this work. (should/may)
2. You look tired. You _____ exhausted. (must be/will be)
3. If she recovers from illness in time, she _____ come. (might/ought to)
4. We are going on a picnic. You _____ bring your camera. (would/should)
5. This boy _____ climb those steep steps faster than his grandfather. (can/might)
6. This car looks very old. It _____ new after all. (can't be/should not be)
7. My brother was so fat in his childhood. He _____ the Fattest Kid Award. (could have won/should win)
8. They had a splendid wedding. You _____ attended it. (should have/would have)

Extension

A Eleven modals are missing from the passage below. Insert a slash (/) where the modal should be and write the modals in the blanks. One has been done for you.

Vishal, Ruma and Tim are birdwatching in the Itatiaia National Park, Brazil.

- Vishal:** Ruma, /we hire cycles and ride through park? 1. shall
That way we cover more area in one day. Tim is faster 2. _____
than us, so we will keep up. 3. _____
- Ruma:** That sounds like a good idea. We cover as 4. _____
much ground as we can today.
(Later...)
- Tim:** Stop! you hear it, the tsiliditdit? I think there is 5. _____
a woodpecker nearby. There he is! you see a Yellow- 6. _____
fronted Woodpecker on that tree. I think I go over, say, 7. _____
'Hello!'
- Ruma:** I see this bird. Where is it? 8. _____
- Vishal:** Tim, you go too far away from us. We 9. _____
lose you. 10. _____
- Tim:** If I make a lot of friends, I not even come back. 11. _____
Bye!