

# Modal auxiliaries:

- The overview
  - Modal auxiliaries, often referred to simply as "modals," are a category of auxiliary verbs in English grammar. These modals play a crucial role in expressing various attitudes, moods, and nuances in sentences.

## \*\*Expressing Modality\*\*:

- Modal auxiliaries convey information about the speaker's attitude, possibility, necessity, ability, permission, obligation, and more. They add depth and context to sentences.

## \*\*Limited Conjugation\*\*:

- Modals have a unique conjugation pattern. They do not change with the subject of the sentence. For example, "can" remains "can" regardless of whether the subject is "I," "you," "he," or "she."

## \*\*Lack of Infinitive "To"\*\*:

- Modals are followed by the base form of the main verb (e.g., "can swim," "must go"), and they don't use "to" before the base form.

## **\*\*Primary Modal Auxiliaries 1\*\*:**

- - **\*\*Can\*\***: Indicates ability, permission, or possibility. For example, "She can sing."
- - **\*\*Could\*\***: Used for past ability, polite requests, or hypothetical situations. For example, "Could you help me?"

## \*\*Primary Modal Auxiliaries 1\*\*:

- - Ex. 1: "She can swim effortlessly."
- - Ex. 2: "I could run faster when I was younger."
- - Ex. 3: "Can I use your phone for a minute?"
- - Ex. 4: "She could win the competition if she practices more."
- - Ex. 5: "Could I ask you a question?"

## \*\*Primary Modal Auxiliaries 2\*\*:

- - \*\*May\*\*<sup>2</sup>: Suggests permission or possibility. For example, "May I go to the restroom?"
- - \*\*Might\*\*<sup>2</sup>: Similar to "may," often used for more tentative suggestions. For example, "It might rain later."

## \*\*Primary Modal Auxiliaries 2\*\*:

- - Ex. 1: "It may rain later today."
- - Ex. 2: "He might join us for dinner."
- - Ex. 3: "May I borrow your pen, please?"
- - Ex. 4: "May I have a moment of your time?"



## \*\*Secondary Modal Auxiliaries\*\*:

- - \*\*Shall\*\*:
- - \*\*Should\*\*:
- - \*\*Ought to\*\*:
- - \*\*Must\*\*:
- - \*\*had better\*\*
- Ex.: "You had better finish your assignment on time."
- ??? "She ought to eat more vegetables."
-

## \*\*Expressing Necessity\*\*

- -- Modal Auxiliaries: "have to," "have got to," "must"
- - Ex. 1: "I have to attend the meeting."
- - Ex. 2: "You must complete the form."

## \*\*Expressing Lack of Necessity and Prohibition\*\*

- - Modal Auxiliaries: "do not have to" and "must not"
- - Ex. 1: "You do not have to come if you don't want to."
- - Ex. 2: "You must not enter this area."

## \*\*Modals of Probability\*\*:

- Modals like "must" and "might" are used to express degrees of certainty or likelihood. For instance, "She must be at home" suggests a high degree of certainty, while "She might be at home" suggests lower certainty.

## \*\* Making Logical Conclusions\*\*

- - Modal Auxiliary: "must"
- - Ex.: "He must be at home because his car is in the driveway."

## **\*\*Giving Instructions (Imperative Sentences)\*\***

- - Ex.: "Close the door behind you."

## **\*\*Making Suggestions\*\***

- - Modal Auxiliaries: "let's" and "why don't"
- - Ex. 1: "Let's go for a walk in the park."
- - Ex. 2: "Why don't we try that new restaurant?"

## \*\*Stating Preferences\*\*

- - Ex. 1: "I prefer tea over coffee."
- - Ex. 2: "I like chocolate ice cream better than vanilla."
- - Ex. 3: "I would rather stay home tonight."



## \*\*Politeness and Requests\*\*:

- Modals like "could," "may," and "would" are often used to make requests or offers more polite. For example, "Could you please pass the salt?" Vs "Would you please pass the salt?"

## \*\*Expressing Hypotheticals\*\*:

- Modals like "could," "might," and "would" can be used to talk about hypothetical or unreal situations. For instance, "If I could fly, I would visit every country."

# In summary

- Modal auxiliaries in English serve to express various shades of meaning, including ability, permission, necessity, obligation, possibility, and more. They are an essential part of English grammar and are used to convey the speaker's attitude and context in a sentence.