

What Are Modal Verbs?

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs which cannot usually work alone. They are used within sentences with another main verb. Modal verbs can be used to show how possible something is, or how likely it is to happen/have happened.

For example:

It's snowing so it **must be** very cold outside.

He's very late. He **could have missed** the train.



They **will lock** the windows when they go out.



Modal verbs can also be used to show:

Advice or obligation

Pupils **must** wear a uniform. You **should** not smoke.

Habits

I **will** often have cereal for my breakfast. We **shall** always enjoy a walk in the park.

Permission

May I leave a few minutes early? Could we go to the post box on the way? You can have an ice-creamif you eat all your dinner.

Ability

I **can** drive a tractor. My grandfather **could** draw very well.

Can you identify the modal verb in these sentences?

It **might** snow tomorrow so we'll be able to make a snowman.

You **could** eat some fruit instead of those sweets.

He is so fast, he **should** win the race.







Here are this week's spellings to practise.



