

Modal verbs

What is a modal verb?

A modal verb is a special type of **verb**.

Modal verbs change or affect other verbs in a sentence. They are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission. Modal verbs behave differently to 'ordinary' verbs.

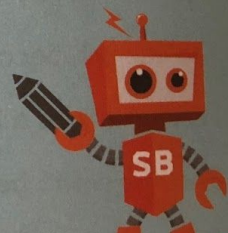
The most common modal verbs are:

- will
- would
- should
- could
- may
- can
- shall
- ought to
- must
- might

Modal verbs

Modal verbs are important for expressing a degree of certainty. The main modal verbs are **will, would, can, could, may, might, shall, should, must** and **ought**.

- I **will** have my dinner at school.
- I **might** go to the cinema later with my friends.
- You **should** wear a coat when it's cold.



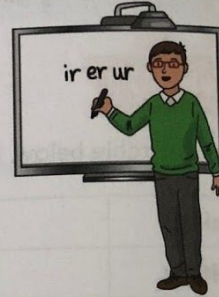
Modal verbs

Now try these activities

Activity 1

Underline the modal verb in each of the sentences below.

- a) I could help you if I had the time.
- b) You should have told your teacher.
- c) You must put your trousers on after your underwear.
- d) I might go shopping after I have finished school.
- e) Wasif will be an amazing scientist.



Activity 2

Choose the correct modal verb to complete each sentence.

- a) Our school team _____ win the football match.
(would, ought, should)
- b) We really _____ remember to take our swimming costumes to the beach.
(may, might, must)
- c) Do you think it _____ rain today?
(might, can, ought)

Modal verbs

Activity 3

Tick the correct modal verb to complete each sentence.

a) Megan _____ like to go to the party.

Tick **one** of the following.

shall

☐

ought

☐

will

☐

would

☐

b) I wish I _____ be an astronaut.

Tick **one** of the following.

can

☐

could

☐

will

☐

would

☐

c) You _____ listen to all the instructions.

Tick **one** of the following.

must

☐

might

☐

ought

☐

would

☐