

Year 6 Grammar Revision

Modal Verbs

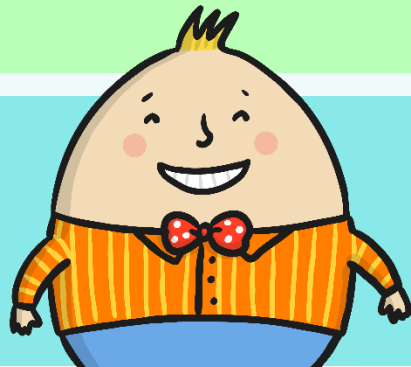


Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

Modal verbs can have many uses. They are sometimes known as 'modal auxiliary verbs' or just as 'modals'. In most cases, they work with another verb to describe the possibility of something happening or to describe to what degree of certainty something is known.

Look at these sentences that contain modal verbs:

The rounder team could win the tournament.



Humpty Dumpty will fall off the wall.

Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

Here are the most common modal verbs:

might

could

would

must

may

will

ought

can

should

shall

You could also use the negative forms of these words as modal verbs, e.g.

The frog **might not** become a prince.



Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

Modal verbs usually **come before a verb in its infinitive form**

If I work hard, when I grow up could be a doctor.

↓
'could' is the **modal verb**

'be' is the **infinitive form** of the verb 'to be'. Infinitive means in its most basic form.

In a few years I shall earn a university degree.

↓
'shall' is the **modal verb**.

'earn' is the **infinitive form** of the verb 'to earn'.



Modal Verbs for Commands : The Rules

Modal verbs can also express commands as the obligation for someone to do something

You must come back home now.

You must not do that ever again.

You will tidy your room.



Modal Verbs for Ability : The Rules

Modal verbs can also express an ability to do another verb.



I can sing beautifully.

I cannot ride a skateboard.



Modal Verbs : The Tricky Bit

Modal verbs can also sometimes ask for permission. Here the main verb doesn't always follow the modal verb.

Can I leave the table please?



Could I take your photograph?



Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 1

Underline the modal verbs in these sentences.

I shall catch the bus to your house

If she trains hard, Joanne should
win the competition.

We will not be visiting Cornwall this year.

Can you tidy your room now?

Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 2

Which event is most likely to happen?

We could go out for lunch today.

This afternoon, Josie might play tennis.

The sun will come out tomorrow.

Michael should get a shower tonight.

Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 3

Tick one box in each row to show how the modal verb affects the meaning of the sentence.

Sentence	Modal verb indicates certainty	Modal verb indicates possibility
Ferrari might win the drivers' championship this season.		✓
Lily can ride her bike without stabilisers.	✓	
It will snow this winter.	✓	

Are you feeling confident
with modal verbs?

