

MODAL AUXILIARIES

Modal Auxiliaries are essentially verbs which perform specific functions. These special verbs often are used to show specific conditions (such as probability, promises, willingness/unwillingness, volition or making choices, commitment to actions, suggestions, etc).

Modal Auxiliaries include:

Present Tense	Past Tense
Can	Could
Will	Would
shall	Should
May	Might
	Must
	Ought to*

*Note: The modal auxiliary *Ought to* contains two words.

These words may appear in a continuum when used to order, to request, to make a suggestion, and/or to give permissions. View the examples below.

With "I"

Modal Auxiliary	Purpose
I may/I might	To expresses potential/possibility permission
I can/I could	To expresses potential/possible ability
I will/I would	To expresses potential/possible ability
I ought to	To show obligation (Suggestive)
I must	To show a strong commitment
I shall/I should	To contractually obligated

With "You"

Modal Auxiliary	Purpose
You may	To give permission
You can	To request
You will	To give a direct order
You ought to	To obligate (Suggestive)
You must	To give a strong obligation
You shall	To contractually obligated

With "He/She"

Modal Auxiliary	Purpose
He/She may	To expresses potential/possibility permission
He/She can	To expresses potential/possible ability
He/She will	To expresses potential/possible ability
He/She ought to	To show obligation (Suggestive)
He/She must	To show a strong obligation
He/She shall	To show contractually obligated