

MODALS

- (1) You should speak the truth.
- (2) The sky looks cloudy. It may rain.
- (3) You are going to appear the board exam. You must work hard.

The modal verbs are will, shall, should, can, would, could, may, might, must, ought, dare, need

Rules

Will / Shall, Would / Should

- (a) Will is used in the first person to express -
- (i) habitual action in the future -
Ex → During the spring flowers will blossom.
 - (ii) characteristic habit -
Ex → They will always roam about that corner.
 - (iii) One's intention / Decision / promise
Ex → I will take you home.
 - (iv) Assumption or probability
Ex → This will be the right key.
 - (v) A threat
Ex → I will take revenge on him.

(vi) Determination

ex → We will fight for our rights.

(b) Shall is used in the second and third person to express.

(i) A command

ex → You shall not tell a lie.

(ii) A promise

ex → You shall be given a reward for good work.

(iii) A threat

ex → He shall be punished.

(iv) Determination

ex → You shall obey me.

(c) Would is used to express

(i) One polite request.

ex → Would you mind

(ii) After "Wish"

ex → I wish, she would come early.

(iii) With the verbs 'like' and 'care'

ex → I would like to go to the movie

* 'Care' can only be used negative and Interrogative Sentences

(iv) With adverb "rather" and "sooner"

ex → I would rather resign my job than submit to such a humiliation.

- She should sooner become inactive than be

~~(iii)~~ an extra vagand

(d) Should is used to express one's

(i) Duty

ex → people should not through wast on the road.

(ii) Determination

ex → It is decided that everyone should meet the expenses himself.

Can, Could, May, Might

(a) **Can** is used to express ability, permission possibility.

ex → I can drive a car.

(b) **Could** is used to express ability in the past.

ex → I could play Hockey when i was young.

(ii) permission →

The students asked if they could go home early

(iii) possibility -

The tiger could be anywhere by now.

(iv) To introduce a request -

Could i take a glass of cold water?

* Could also used with present perfect tense.

ex → I could have given him some money

~~(iii) may in case of~~

(3)

(c) **May** is used to express permission and possibility.
ex - You can sit down here, if you want?
- It may rain in the afternoon.

(d) **Might** is used like "may" to express permission and possibility.

ex -> This tablet might cure his headache.

Must, Ought

(a) **Must** is used to express

(i) obligation or necessity

ex -> We must respect the elder people.

(ii) Emphatic determination:

ex -> He must be very clever.

(iii) To introduce a question -

ex -> Must I do it myself?

(b) **Ought** is used to express -

(i) obligation -

We ought to love and respect our parents

(ii) Strong possibility -

She ought to win the match

(iii) To show a duty left undone -

- I ought to have been more liberal

- She ought to have told me the truth.