

MANAGING MODALS



Modal verbs are **helping/auxiliary verbs** that give additional information about the function of the main verb that follows. They express attitudes such as **ability, possibility, permission, and suggestion**.

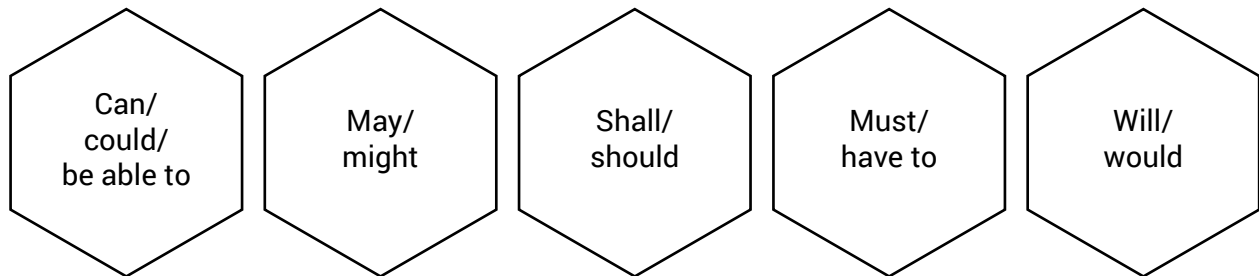
e.g., Students should start working on essays early. (suggestion)

e.g., They must buy their tickets today. (necessity)

e.g., She may be sick. (possibility)



Modals in the English Language



How to Use Modals

1 Never use **-s, -d, or -ing** endings with modals

*e.g., Participants **can** respond to the questionnaire at their own pace.*

2 Use the infinitive without **to** after modals (except in **ought to**)

*e.g., Participants **might** ~~to~~ **be** unsure of what the question is asking.*

3 Use inversion to turn a sentence that uses a modal into a question

Sentence using a modal:

*e.g., Participants **can** be between the ages of 13-15.*

Question using a modal:

*e.g., **Can** participants be between the ages of 13-15?*

4 Add **not** after the modal to make it negative

*e.g., They **could not** understand the research question.*

5 Never use two modals together

*e.g., The treatment group **might could** demonstrate a different response from the control group.*

Modal Tenses

Simple Modals	Show present or future time	modal + base form <i>e.g., We can study now. (present)</i> <i>e.g., He should leave soon. (future)</i>
Progressive Modals	Express an activity in progress at the moment of speaking Show an action in progress at a specific time in the future	modal + be + present participle <i>e.g., They must be sleeping.</i> (present progressive) <i>e.g., She should be leaving soon.</i> (future progressive)
Perfect Modals	Express a past action	modal + have + past participle <i>e.g., I should have studied last night.</i> (present perfect)
Perfect Progressive Modals	Express an activity in progress at a specific time in the past	modal + have been + present participle <i>e.g., You might have been sleeping when I called.</i> (present perfect progressive)