

MODALS OR SEMI-AUXILIARIES

Modals accompany(HELP) the main verbs to enforce meaning: permission/no permission, suggestion, obligation etc, for the verb to be executed and some also express tense,

Examples: Can, could, may, might, should, ought to, must, will, would. (need to, have to)

Formulation

* They are always followed by the bare infinitive (without 'to'). I can **do**, I may **come**, we **should** go, you **ought to** visit us.

*They are the same for all the pronouns during conjugation: I should, You should, He should, we should.

*They take direct negative and question forms: can/can't, should, shouldn't, **except** for 'may' which does not receive the contracted form in the negative - 'may not', '~~may'nt~~'.

Can we? , may we? Etc goes for the direct question form.

*Never combine with another modal: ~~you may can,~~

NB: Although 'have to' and 'need to', have some aspects of the formulation of the modals; like being followed by the bare infinitive, they are not modal verbs. They change form with persons (I,you,He, we, they)

Some uses of the modals

1: Ability/lack of ability: can and could /Dogs **can** bark for the whole day./ We **could** drive long distances in the past.

2. Informal request: Can you turn the music down, please?

3. General possibility: can rise.

Polite request: Could we move on, please?

4: Polite modal verb to ask permission: May (there is no contracted form), might. May I borrow your pen?

5. Expressing an opinion, an expectation, giving advice,: /We should have a rest/His son is sick. I think we **should** pay him a visit./ We **should** consume less sugar/

6. 'Should' can replace if- in the conditional sentence: Should there be any complaints, hint me.

7. Expressing necessity, obligation 'Must', 'have to', 'ought to', 'need to' - I am feeling tired. I **must** have a rest./ I **ought to/have to** be up before 6:00am.

8. Expressing the future simple tense: shall (only for I and we), will:/ I/we shall go to school tomorrow./He **will arrive** in the morning/.

9. Formulation of conditional sentences: Will, Would: / If I am sick I **will** go home/If I had money, I **would** buy a car.