<u>Modals</u>

can - could

will - would

may - might - must

shall - should

<u>Modals</u>

- used as auxiliary verb (e.g. *I can go*)

- do not show tense or subject agreement (e.g. *He can go* - not *He **cans** go*)

- before the negative particle in not negation (e.g. *I cannot go*)

- before the subject in yes-no questions (e.g. *Can you go*?)

- take the bare infinitive verb as the main verb in a verb phrase (e.g. *He can go* - not *He can **to go*** or *He can **went***)

- express stance meanings (**see next slides**)

Time Differences with Modals

Modals referring to present and future time:

- can
- may
- shall
- will

Modals that **can** refer to past time:

- could
- might
- should
- would

* Note that each present/ future modal has a corresponding past modal

Stance meanings of Modals

Permission/ ability:
- can
- could
- may
- might

Meanings
    Personal meaning - permission or possibility, ability
    Logical meaning - possibility

<u>Stance meanings of Modals</u>

<u>Obligation/ necessity:</u>
- must
- should
- have (got) to
- need to
- be supposed to

<u>Meanings</u>

Personal meaning - obligation
Logical meaning - necessity

Stance meanings of Modals

Volition/ prediction:
- will
- would
- shall

Meanings
    Personal meaning - volition or intention
    Logical meaning - prediction

Frequency of Modals in Academic Writing

- **can**

- **may**

- **will**

- **would**

- **should**

- **must**

- **could**

- **might**

- **have to**

- **shall**

The most frequent modals in academic writing are *can, may,* and *will*.

Would, should, must, could, and *might* are used but infrequently.

The most infrequent modals in academic writing are *have to* and *shall*. *Shall* is extremely infrequent.