

# Modal Auxiliaries

He is badly injured.  
We must take him to  
the hospital right  
now.



**Modal auxiliaries** go with another **verb** and add meaning.

He is badly injured.  
We **must take** him to  
the hospital right  
now.



There are other expressions that are similar to modal auxiliaries: **be able to**,

Jack **is able to** ice skate very well.

**be able to:** can/indicates the ability to do something

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There are other expressions that are similar to modal auxiliaries: **be able to**, **be going to**,

Jack **is able to** ice skate very well.

He **is going to** skate in an exhibition.

**be going to**: will/means future plans

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There are other expressions that are similar to modal auxiliaries: **be able to**, **be going to**, and **have to**.

Jack **is able to** ice skate very well.

He **is going to** skate in an exhibition.

He **has to** practice to do well.

**have to**: must/indicates a necessity

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## be able to + verb

Affirmative and negative

I	<b>am able to</b>	<b>walk</b>
We/You/They	<b>am not able to</b>	
He/She/It	<b>is able to</b> <b>is not able to</b>	

**Are** you **able to walk** on the road?

Yes, I **am able to walk** on it. It's wide enough.

No, I'**m** not **able to walk** on it. It's too narrow.

**Is** he **able to speak** Spanish?

Yes, he **is**.

No, he **isn't**.

## be going to + verb

Affirmative and negative

I	<b>am going to</b> <b>am not going to</b>	eat
He/She/It	<b>is going to</b> <b>is not going to</b>	
We/You/They	<b>are going to</b> <b>are not going to</b>	

**Are you going to eat** dinner with Jane?

Yes, I **am**.

No, I'm not. I'm **going to eat** with Mary.

I'm **going to learn** how to cook next week.

**Have to** expresses strong obligation. The obligation comes from an outside source like a law, a rule at school or someone of authority.

You **have to** get a passport for international travel.

She **has to** be home by midnight.

I don't **have to** do the dishes. I have a dishwasher.

We **have to** write two papers this semester.



## has to/have to + verb

Affirmative and negative

I	<b>have to</b>	<b>leave</b>
We/You/They	<b>don't have to</b>	
He/She/It	<b>has to</b> <b>doesn't have to</b>	

Do you **have to** leave?

Yes, I **have to** leave.

No, I **don't have to** leave.

Do they **have to** work tomorrow.

Yes, they do.

No, they don't.

**Can, could, might, must, will, should and would** are modal auxiliary verbs. **Modal + verb**

Do you think your sister-in-law **would** cut my hair?

I think she **would**. I **could** call and ask her.



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**Can, could, might, must, will, should and would** are modal auxiliary verbs. **Modal + verb**

Affirmative and negative

I/He/She/It	<b>can</b>	<b>might</b>	<b>will</b>	<b>help</b>
We/You/	<b>can't</b>	<b>might not</b>	<b>won't</b>	
They	<b>could</b>	<b>must</b>	<b>should</b>	
	<b>couldn't</b>	<b>must not</b>	<b>shouldn't</b>	

**Can** you **help** me?

Yes, I **can**.

No, I **can't**.

**Would** you **carry** my bags? They are heavy.

Yes, I **would** love to help you.

Sorry, I **can't** help. I **must** leave now.

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## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

**can**



**ability / polite question**

**Can** you **cook**?

Yes, I **can** **cook** many things.

No, I **can't** **cook**.

**Can** you **drive** me to school, please?

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## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

**can** → ability / polite question

**could** → ability in the past / polite question

I **could** drive when I was fifteen.  
**Could** you give me a ride home?  
If not, I **can** ride my bike.

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## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

can



ability / polite question

could



ability in the past / polite question

might



**possibility**

Do you think it **might rain** soon?

Yes, I think it **might rain** tomorrow.

No, I don't think so.

I **might go** to Paris next year.

They **might not pass** the class.

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## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

can	→	ability / polite question
could	→	ability in the past / polite question
might	→	possibility
must	→	requirement

Ugh! **Must** I wash all these dishes right now?  
Yes, you **must**. Our guests are coming soon.  
No, you can do it later.

You **must** not **run** in the hall!

## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

<b>can</b>	→	ability / polite question
<b>could</b>	→	ability in the past / polite question
<b>might</b>	→	possibility
<b>must</b>	→	requirement
<b>will</b>	→	<b>future event</b>

**Will** you **call** the plumber for me?

Yes, I **will call** the plumber for you.

No, I **won't**. I have to leave. Greg **will call** her.

I **will meet** you in five minutes.



## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

can	→	ability / polite question
could	→	ability in the past / polite question
might	→	possibility
must	→	requirement
will	→	future event
<b>should</b>	→	<b>advisability</b>

**Shouldn't** you exercise more?

Yes, I **should**, but I'm too tired.

No, I **shouldn't**. I have a bad cold.

## Modal Auxiliary Verbs

can	→	ability / polite question
could	→	ability in the past / polite question
might	→	possibility
must	→	requirement
will	→	future event
should	→	advisability
would	→	<b>polite question</b>

**Would** you please **read** this letter?

Yes, I **would** be happy to.

I **can't** **read** it right now. I'**ll** **read** it later.

Click on the best choice to complete the response to the statement.

My car wouldn't start yesterday.

shouldn't

**incorrect**

couldn't

**correct**

I couldn't go to school yesterday.

**couldn't** indicates a past ability  
**shouldn't** indicates advisability

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Click on the correct sentences:

- |                                           |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ed is able to play the violin.            | <b>correct</b>   |
| Ed must to play the violin.               | <b>incorrect</b> |
| Mary could to ice skate when she was six. | <b>incorrect</b> |
| Mary could ice skate when she was six.    | <b>correct</b>   |
| We aren't able walking to school.         | <b>incorrect</b> |
| We aren't able to walk to school.         | <b>correct</b>   |
| We should study to get good grades.       | <b>correct</b>   |
| We shouldn't study get good grades.       | <b>incorrect</b> |

# Modal Auxiliaries

The End

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