

ASHRAF VVN

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FUNCTIONS OF MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS

Modals are the auxiliary verbs which express the mood or attitude of the speaker.

Will

He will arrive tomorrow	(future)
Will you please open the door	(polite request)
I will try to help you	(promise)
I will do it whatever happens	(determination)
We will dismiss you soon.	(Threat)
You will walk on the left side	(command)
I will lend you my car	(willingness)
If you walk on the right, you will miss it.	(Prediction)
He will be at home now	(assumption)

Would

We would go for a walk every morning	(past habit)
Would you please lend me some money	(polite request)
The doctor said that he would reduce the pain	(willingness)
I would like to speak to him	(wish)
I would buy a car if I won the lottery	(imaginary)

Shall

You shall report for duty	(command, threat)
Shall I make a cup of tea?	(Offer, suggestion)
We shall let you know your results	(intention)
You shall obey me as long as you live here	(prediction)
You shall get medal, if you study well.	(Promise)

Should

You should work hard	(duty)
You should take medicine	(advice)
People should not tell lie	(obligation)
You should obey elders	(duty)

Can

She can speak several languages	(ability)
You can go home now.	(Permission)
Accidents can happen to anyone	(possibility)
Can you please show me the way	(polite request)

Could

Could you please wait for me	(polite request)
I could dance well at the age of ten	(past ability)
You could do it well, if you planned well.	(Possibility)
Could I use your pen	(permission)
We could succeed, if we worked hard	(probability)

May

He may come soon	(possibility)
May I come in	(polite request)
May God wish you	(wish)
May I use your pen	(permission)

Might

You might post this letter	(request)
The patient might recover	(doubtful possibility)
You might see him	(possibility)

Must

He must be very poor	(possibility)
You must be here by six o'clock	(compulsion)
She must wear uniform	(duty/obligation)
You must clean the room	(necessity)
You must learn physics	(probability)

Ought to

We ought to respect our nation	(duty/obligation)
We ought to help the poor.	(Obligation)
You ought to buy some furniture	(necessity)