

Namaste English
Mastery Course on Modal Verbs
By Santosh Sir

Modal Verbs Day 5

Introduction to the course

- ❖ It's important that we have the knowledge of modal verbs along with the knowledge of tenses. So, this time we have brought a mastery course for you on Modal Verbs.
- ❖ In this course you will get mastery on Modal Verbs.
- ❖ You will get to know that which modal verb to be used appropriately.
- ❖ Your spoken part will improve.
- ❖ Your written part will be rhetoric, after you have attended all the sessions of this course.

Modal Verbs for 'Request', 'offer' or 'Invitation'

Can & Could

Can and Could are modal verbs used to make requests. Here is the structure:

Can/Could + Subject + Verb

Examples:

- Can you pass the salt please?
- Could you bring your book tomorrow?

Can and Could are used differently. **Can is less polite than Could.**

Can is used to make basic requests from a friend or co-worker. It is often used for small things.

- Can you pass the juice?
- Can you turn off the air conditioner?

Could is more polite than can, but has the same function:

- Could you pass the juice please?
- Could you help me with my homework Mr. Johnston?

Would

Would is used to make polite requests in English. The structure is as follows:

Would you mind + Verb + ING

Examples:

- Would you mind closing the door?
- Would you mind turning down the radio?



You can also say “do you mind”, but “would you mind” is more polite:

- Do you mind turning off the music?
- Would you mind turning off the music?

Would can also be used to make polite requests with the verb “like”.

- I would like another drink please.
- I would like some help with my math homework please.

This is the same as using the verb “want”. However, Would is more polite.

- I want a drink.
- I would like a drink.

These types of requests are more common when ordering something. Take a look at these examples:

- I would like rice with my chicken.
- I would like another Coke please.

Modal Verbs Related to Offer:

Would you like...?

The most common way to make an offer in English is to use the verb would. Here is the structure:

Would + You + Like + Noun

Examples:

- Would you like a drink?



- Would you like some help?
- Would you like more coffee?

Invitations

You can also use this structure to make an invitation, which is a different type of offer. Use this structure:

Would + You + Like + Infinitive Verb (To + Verb)

Examples:

- Would you like to go to the movie theatre tonight?
- Would you like to watch television with me?
- Would you like to meet next week?

Answers

To answer offers, you can also use would.

- Yes, I would.

There are many other less formal ways to accept and offer:

- Sure. That sounds great!
- Yes, please.
- That would be nice, thank you.
- Yes, that would be great.

To decline an offer, you can use would:

- No, I would not.

But, this is often too rude. It is better to say something like these examples:

- No, thank you.
- I am OK, thanks.
- I'm fine, thanks.

Can

You can also make an offer using can. This is less formal than using would. The structure looks like this:

Can + I + Base Verb + Object (You)

Examples:

- Can I help you?
- Can I bring you a drink?

These requests are normally for small things.

About the Instructor

Santosh Sen (B.Ed. in English, University of Delhi)

Santosh Sir has wide teaching experience of more than 5 years in English Language and Literature. He is an ex-faculty of Exam Mitra Institute, Delhi. Students have known him as a teacher who makes English Learning easy by his short methods and tricks.

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