

**Namaste English**  
**Mastery Course on Modal Verbs**  
**By Santosh Sir**

## **Modal Verbs Day 3**

### **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 of Ability**

When we talk about ability, we mean two things.

First, we mean **general ability**. This is something that once you have learned you can do any time you want, like being able to read or

swim or speak a language, for example.

The other kind of ability is **specific ability**. This means something that you can or can't do in one particular situation. For example, being able to lift something heavy, or find somewhere you are looking for.

**Present:**

**can / can't (for both general and specific ability)**

- I can play the piano.
- She can speak English.
- He can't drive – he's too tired.
- We can't come now.

**Past:**

**could / couldn't (for general ability)**

- I could read when I was four.
- She could speak French when she was a child, but now she has forgotten it.
- He couldn't dance at all until he took lessons.
- My grandfather couldn't swim.

**was able to / couldn't (for specific ability)**

- When the computer crashed yesterday, I was able to fix it.(not 'I could fix it')
- She was able to pass the exam, even though she hadn't studied much.(not 'she could pass')
- He called us because he couldn't find the house.
- I couldn't open the window.

**could + have + past participle (an ability someone had in the past, but didn't use)**

- I could have played the piano well but I didn't practise enough.
- We could have come earlier.
- She could have studied law, but she preferred to become a secretary.

**Future:**

**will / won't be able to (general ability)**

- At the end of the course, you will be able to make your own website.

- He won't be able to speak Japanese in a week! It will take months.

### can / can't (specific ability)

- I can help you tomorrow
- I can't come to the party

Can can will be able to

Choose the most appropriate answer for expressing ability.

1. Maria  type 80 words per minute.  
☐ may ☐ can ☐ could ☐ has to
2. Ella  speak French and German.  
☐ may ☐ can ☐ could ☐ has to
3. Tom's teacher says that he  play the violin pretty well in half a year.  
☐ can ☐ could ☐ will be able to ☐ will have to
4. I  meet him at the airport tomorrow.  
☐ can ☐ could ☐ should ☐ would
5. I'm sure that Nina  explain everything when she returns.  
☐ can ☐ could ☐ will be able to ☐ will have to

Answers

Can

Can

Will be able to

Can

Will be able to

## 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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