

Namaste English Mastery Course on Modal Verbs By Santosh Sir

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 to be used in case of Probability

When talking about the present, modal verbs of probability express a guess or suggestion. Here are some common present modal auxiliary verbs.

Modal Verb of Probability	Meaning
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Can't + infinitive	I'm sure this isn't so.
Can	This is a general possibility.
Could	Maybe.
May	Maybe.
Might	Maybe.
Must	I'm pretty sure this is true.
Will	I'm very sure this is true.
Won't	I've very sure this isn't true.
Should	This is probably true.

Present modal verbs of probability are often constructed with “be” following them.

Modal Verbs Examples:

- George *must be* on the plane by now.
- Katie *may be* late to the movie.
- Flying *can be* too expensive.
- Drew *can't be going* to the party.

Past Modal Verbs of Probability

You can construct past modal verbs by adding “have” and a past participle to the modal verb.

Modal Verbs Examples:

- George *must have gotten* on the plane.
- Katie *might have been late* to the movie.
- Flying *could have been* too expensive.
- Drew *can't have gone* to the party.

It is important not to confuse modal verbs like “should” and “could” with their other modal verb roles. When used as a modal verb of probability, “should” means that you assume something happened if everything is as you expect it to be.

- **PRESENT:** The bus *should be leaving*.
- **PAST:** The bus *should have left*.

When paired with an infinitive, “could” expresses a general possibility in the past and is used as the past tense of “can.” In the present tense, “can” talks about general possibilities that we understand to sometimes be true. “Could” is the past tense version of this type of “can.”

- **PRESENT:** Gas prices *can be* high in the summer.
- **PAST:** Gas prices *could be* high in the 1970s.

Note the present tense of “be” even when referring to the past with both “should” and “could.” This is not to be confused with pairing these verbs with “have” and a past participle, which talks about specific past possibilities or obligations.

Past Modal Verbs of Certainty

When you are certain that something has occurred, then you can use “will” or “won’t” with “have” and a past participle.

Modal Verbs Examples:

- Phil *will have arrived* by now.
- Cara *won't have left* the office until well after closing hours.

Making Sense of Modal Verbs of Probability

When using modal verbs of probability, things can quickly get confusing, but ensuring proper grammar could end in your favor. When expressing probability in present tense, pair a modal verb up with an infinitive. When expressing probability in the past tense, add “have” and a past participle to the modal verb.

About the Instructor

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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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