

# 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.

## Introduction to Modal Verbs

Very simply put, a modal is a helping verb, also known as a type of auxiliary verb, that adds meaning to the main verb. Modals enable you to use a single main verb in different ways or *modes*.

These are the 8 most common modals: **can, should, may, might, must, have to, would, and will**. There are others, such as **ought to**, that are not as commonly used.



You use modals all the time. The sentences, "I study," and, "I **should** study," and "I **will** study," all have obviously different meanings.

## Introduction to auxiliary verbs

There are two main categories of verbs: **ordinary verbs** and **auxiliary verbs**.

Auxiliary verbs allow us to:

- conjugate verbs in tenses other than the present and the past simple (eg.: **will** for the future, **would** and **should** for the conditional);
- express notions of ability, obligation, probability, repetition, among others (eg.: **can**, **must**, **may**, etc.);
- express the passive voice (e.g.: 'The apple **was** eaten').

Note the difference between:

- irregular auxiliary verbs **be**, **have** and **do**, which can also be used as ordinary verbs ('be', 'have' and 'do');
- modal auxiliary

verbs: **must**, **can**, **could**, **may**, **might**, **will**, **would**, **shall**, **should**, **ought to**, etc.

Some important characteristics:

- To form the negative, we just need to add **not** after the auxiliary verb (with these verbs, the construction **do not/doesn't/didn't** is not used, as in the case for ordinary verbs):

**I will not come.** [or **won't**: contracted form]

She cannot read his handwriting. [or **can't**: contracted form]

You mustn't believe everything he tells you. [or **must not**: non-contracted form]

Ordinary verb:

I do not want to come. [or **don't**: contracted form]

• In the spoken negative form, **not** is contracted and changes to **-n't**:

is not	=	<b>isn't</b>
have not	=	<b>haven't</b>
Cannot	=	<b>can't</b>
must not	=	<b>mustn't</b>
will not	=	<b>won't</b>
do not	=	<b>don't</b>

• Modal auxiliaries are followed by a verb in the infinitive **without 'to'** :

**I must leave.** I have to leave.

**He should come.** It would be good for him to come.

## All the Modal Verbs

Will

Would

Shall

Should

Can

Could

May



Might  
Dare  
Ought to  
Need  
Used to

## How we use modal verbs

We use modal verbs for the following purposes

- permission
- denial of permission
- obligation
- lack of obligation
- necessity
- lack of necessity
- possibility
- probability
- ability
- lack of ability
- capability
- positive assumption
- negative assumption
- advice
- prediction
- intention
- promise
- offer
- request
- suggestion



- criticism
- prohibition
- insist
- willingness
- habit

## 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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