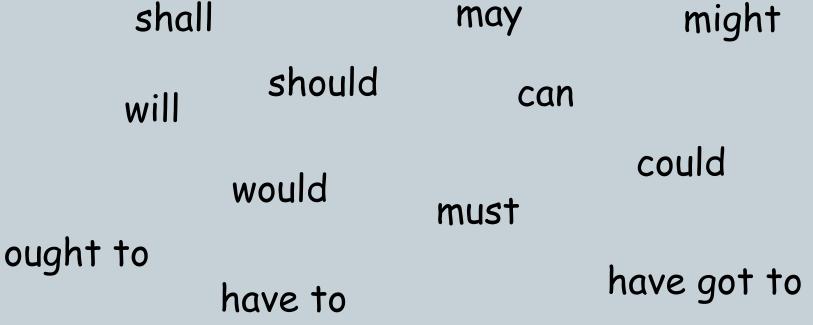
Modals and Semi Modals

What are They ?



We use Modal verbs to talk about an ability/a duty/ a need /a necessity/wanting..

What is special about them?

Modal verbs behave very differently from normal verbs.

Here are some important differences:

1. <u>Modal verbs</u> are always followed by a verb in its base form.

EXAMPLES: He <u>can</u> speak Chinese. Compare: I speak Chinese. He speaks Chinese You <u>may</u> take the book to school. She <u>may</u> take the book to school. Compare: You take the books to school. She takes the books to school. 2. <u>Modal verbs</u> do not take "-s" in the third person in the present simple.

EXAMPLES:

- He speaks Chinese.
- He <u>can</u> speak Chinese. (NOT- He cans speak...)
- She *eats* a sandwich at 9:30
- She may eat a sandwich at 9:30.

3. We use "not" to make modal verbs negative, even in Simple Present and Simple Past.
(We don't use the helping verb "do")

EXAMPLES:

He should not be late.

They <u>might not</u> *come* to the party. Compare: I don't like to be late.

I <u>cannot</u> *eat* any more cakes.

I don't *eat* carrot cakes.

4. Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.

EXAMPLES:

He <u>will can</u> go with us. WRONG

She <u>must</u> studied very hard. WRONG

will- will not - won't

We use this modal to speak about future actions that we are sure/ convinced about.

will- will not(=won't)

Today is Tuesday. Tomorrow **will be** Wednesday.

= I know it because this is a known fact.

We **will not be** in the office tomorrow.

= I know it because he is going on vacation.

Can – Could –Be able to

We use these modals to express:

- General ability/ disability
- possibility / impossibility
- opportunity
- Permission
- request

Can

I can walk.

= I have the <u>general ability</u> to do the action of walking.

I can't hear you, it is too noisy.

=I don't have the <u>ability</u> to hear what you are saying because of the noise.

Can

I have some free time. I can help her now. =I have the opportunity to help her.

- I can't help her now because I don't have any time.
 - =I don't have the opportunity to help her.

Can ____ Could

In the past, can changes to could.

He could speak only Hebrew when he was a kid. He couldn't speak to his neighbor who speaks only English. (General ability)

may

=future possibility/get permission

may

- I may choose to wear the red dress to the party.
 - =I have two dresses. There is a chance that I will choose to wear the red dress and not the blue one.

• Today, he may come on time.

=Although usually he comes late,

There is a possibility that today he will come on time.

may

• May I come to visit you at 5 o'clock?

=I want to come to you but I'm not sure that you want me to come/that you will be at home/that you will let me enter .

• You may take only one candy.

=Although there are more candies, I permit you to take only one of them!

might

=possibility

might

- We may come on time, but if you miss the bus, we might be late.
 - =I plan to come on time and this is why I I want to catch the 7:15 bus.
 - If I catch the 7:30 bus, I can come on time or not, I'm not sure.
- If you advertise on the Internet you might get a lot of spam to your e-mail box.
 - =Although you don't want to get spam, there's a risk that you will get it.

should

= advice or a strong suggestion.

- If you want to be a champion you should practice every day.
 - =You don't have to practice but then, you will not get better.
- When you make a cheese cake, you should first check that you have cheese.

-or else, it will not be a cheese cake

must - mustn't

Must – very strong advice/ obligation
Mustn't – things you're not allowed to do.

She is sick. She has high fever. She must take a pill.

= very strong advice/ obligation

You mustn't ride your bike without a helmet! = you're not allowed to do.

Semi modals

have to - has to had to — will have to

- = it is necessary
- =shows obligation and giving advice.

have to/has to —in the present/near future had to —in the past will have to —in the future • I have to clean my room.

(My mother forces me to do it.)

• She has to finish the test before the bell rings.

(After the bell rings, you can't go on answering the questions.)

• Gail Devers had to take radiation therapy for her decease.

(...to get well.)

• At the end of the 8th grade we will have to leave our school.

(...and go to high school.)

don't have to doesn't have to

Don't have to / Doesn't have to = it isn't necessary

Ought to – be supposed to – be allowed to

- Ought to
- be supposed to= we expect him/her to
- be allowed to = permission someone will let/permit him do it.

- That's a great movie. You ought to see it! (or You must see it.)
- The teacher **is supposed to** base the grades on the tests and assignments.
- On Friday, the students in our school don't have to wear the school uniform. They are allowed to wear any color they want. (They are permitted to / They can even wear a pink shirt with yellow stripes.)

(be) able to

be able to show an ability.

-I don't know when I will be ready. I will be able to give you an answer later.

-Is he able to do it? Yes, he knows how to do it and has time to do it.

(=Can he do it?)