

# Modal Verbs

## MODAL VERBS

Type	Modal Verbs	Examples
ABILITY	Can, Could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David can speak three languages.</li> <li>He could speak fluent French when he was 5.</li> </ul>
PERMISSION	Can, Could, May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can I sit in that chair please?</li> <li>Could I open the window?</li> <li>May I borrow your dictionary?</li> </ul>
ADVICE	Should	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You should visit your dentist at least twice a year.</li> <li>You should try to lose weight.</li> </ul>
OBLIGATION	Must, Have to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I must memorize all of these rules about tenses.</li> <li>You have to take off your shoes before you get into the mosque.</li> </ul>
POSSIBILITY	Might, May, Could, Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It looks nice, but it might be very expensive.</li> <li>Richard may be coming to see us tomorrow.</li> </ul>



Ability-ικανότητα  
 Permission- άδεια  
 Advice- συμβουλή  
 Obligation – υποχρέωση  
 Possibility - πιθανότητα

# Modal Verbs - Asking Permission ???

➡ Informal

CAN

❖ Can I borrow your pen for a minute ?

❖ Can I speak to John Wilson ?

➡ Polite

COULD

❖ Could I please have a glass of beer ?

❖ Could I open the window ?

➡ Formal

MAY

❖ May I ask a question please ?

❖ May we go home now ?

➡ Polite

WOULD

❖ Would you mind if I asked you something?

# Modal Verbs: Probability **Review**

**Positive**

How certain am I?

**Negative**

100%

100%

**MUST**



I smell bread baking.  
There must be a bakery  
nearby.

**CAN'T**

This can't be Tim's house.  
His house is brown.



**MUST NOT**

She must not be at work  
today. She hasn't returned  
my emails or calls.



**MIGHT/MAY**\*



I might/may go to the party  
if I finish my homework.

\* may & might: same level of certainty (50%)

**MIGHT/MAY NOT**\*

It might/may not be a good  
day for a picnic. It's cloudy  
and a bit chilly.



\* may not & might not: same level of certainty (50%)

**COULD**



This could be my last  
meeting with this office.  
I'm switching jobs soon.

less certain