

Modal Verbs

MODAL VERBS		
Type	Modal Verbs	Examples
ABILITY	Can, Could	<p>✖ David can speak three languages. ✖ He could speak fluent French when he was 5.</p>
PERMISSION	Can, Could, May	<p>✖ Can I sit in that chair please? ✖ Could I open the window? ✖ May I borrow your dictionary?</p>
ADVICE	Should	<p>✖ You should visit your dentist at least twice a year. ✖ You should try to lose weight.</p>
OBLIGATION	Must, Have to	<p>✖ I must memorize all of these rules about tenses. ✖ You have to take off your shoes before you get into the mosque.</p>
POSSIBILITY	Might, May, Could, Can	<p>✖ It looks nice, but it might be very expensive. ✖ Richard may be coming to see us tomorrow.</p>



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?

100%

MUST



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



MIGHT/MAY*

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

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

COULD



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

Negative

100%

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 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%)

less certain