

Modal Verbs

Introduction

The most common modal verbs in English are: **can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall** and **should**.

Modal verbs are verbs which 'help' other verbs express a meaning:

- * **ability** - having the knowledge or skills to be able to do something
- * **possibility** - something being possible
- * **permission** - something being allowed
- * **obligation** - something that you must do and have no choice
- * **deduction** – a process of thinking in a logical way
- * **advice** – suggestion or recommendation
- * **probability/expectation** – something that is likely to happen

Modal verbs are difficult to use correctly because the same modal verb can express several different meanings.