

عنوان المحاضرة: Modal verbs

المادة الدراسية: Grammar

المرحلة الدراسية: First level

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جامعة الموصل

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القسم: الترجمة

Mastering Modal Verbs in English

A Comprehensive Guide to Usage and Meaning

CAN...Function: Present Ability, Permission, and Polite Requests

- **1. Present Ability** (Having the physical or mental power to do something)
- I **can** speak three languages fluently.
- She **can** run a marathon in under four hours.
- My brother **can** fix almost any computer problem.
- Birds **can** fly, but penguins cannot.

- **2. Giving Permission** (Allowing someone to do something)

- You **can** leave the classroom once you finish the exam.
 - Employees **can** wear casual clothes on Fridays.
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- He **can** borrow my car for the weekend.
- You **can** use my phone if yours is dead.

- **3. Polite Request for Agreement** (Asking for consensus or shared understanding)

- **Can** we agree that this project needs more time?
- **Can** we say that the meeting was a success?
- **Can** we settle on a price of 50?
- **Can** we call this issue resolved for now?

COULD... Past Ability, Possibility, and Polite Requests

- **1. Past Ability** (Something you were able to do in the past)
- When I was younger, I **could** stay up all night studying.
- Mozart **could** play the piano brilliantly by age five.
- Before the injury, he **could** lift 200 pounds.
- She **could** read perfectly before she started kindergarten.

- **2. Present or Future Possibility** (Something that might happen)

- It **could** rain later this afternoon, so take an umbrella.
 - We **could** go to the beach this weekend if the weather is nice.
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- That strange noise in the engine **could** be a serious problem.
- The team **could** win the championship if they practice hard.

- **3. Polite Request for Agreement / Help / Cooperation** (More formal than "can")

- **Could** we come to a compromise on this contract? (*Agreement*)
- **Could** you possibly help me carry these heavy boxes? (*Help*)
- **Could** everyone please mute their microphones? (*Cooperation*)
- **Could** you forward that email to the rest of the team? (*Cooperation*)

MAY & MIGHT... Permission, Possibility, and Formal Requests

- . **MAY: Giving Permission** (Formal and authoritative)
 - You **may** now open your exam papers.
 - Passengers **may** board the aircraft at gate 4.
 - You **may** leave the table when you are finished eating.
- **2. MAY: Possibility** (A strong chance something is true or will happen)
 - The CEO **may** visit our office tomorrow.
 - I **may** be a few minutes late to the meeting.
 - We **may** need to revise the budget for next quarter.

- **3. MAY: Polite Request** (Highly formal)
- **May** I use the restroom, please?
- **May** I have your attention for a moment?
- **May** I see your passport and boarding pass?
- **4. MIGHT: Possibility** (Slightly less certain than "may")
- I **might** go to the gym later, but I'm feeling a bit tired.
- They **might** have taken a different route to avoid traffic.
- It **might** snow tomorrow, but the forecast is unsure.
- He **might** not know the answer to your question.

SHOULD, OUGHT TO & HAD BETTER...

Advice and Suggestions

- **1. Giving Advice** (What is the right or best thing to do)
- **Should:** You **should** drink more water when you exercise.
- **Should:** He **should** apologize for what he said.
- **Ought to:** You **ought to** call your mother on her birthday.
- **Ought to:** They **ought to** read the instructions before starting.
- **Had better:** (Implies a negative consequence if not followed) You **had better** leave now, or you'll miss the train!
- **Had better:** He **had better** study, or he will fail the class.

- **2. SHOULD: Suggestion** (Offering a good idea)
 - We **should** try that new Italian restaurant downtown.
 - Maybe you **should** take a few days off to relax.
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- I think we **should** paint this room a brighter color.
- You **should** watch that new documentary; it's fascinating.

WILL & WOULD... Predictions and Polite Requests

- **1. WILL: Prediction** (Stating what you believe will happen)
- The sun **will** rise at 6:00 AM tomorrow.
- I am sure she **will** do a great job on the presentation.
- In the future, people **will** drive electric cars.
- The stock market **will** likely recover by next year.

- **2. WILL: Polite Request** (Direct but polite)

- **Will** you hold the door for me, please?

- **Will** you please pass the salt?

- **Will** you turn the music down a little bit?

- **3. WOULD: Polite Request** (Softer and more polite than "will")

- **Would** you mind opening the window? It's hot in here.

- **Would** you like a cup of coffee or tea?

- **Would** you please send me the report by 5 PM?

- **Would** it be possible to reschedule our meeting?

MUST, HAVE TO & HAVE GOT TO....

Necessity, Obligation, and Logical Conclusion

- **1. MUST: Necessity and Obligation** (Usually internal or formal obligation)
- I **must** finish this assignment before I go to sleep.
- All passengers **must** fasten their seatbelts.
- You **must** wear a hard hat in the construction zone.

- **2. MUST: Logical Conclusion** (Deduction based on evidence)
 - You've been traveling for 14 hours; you **must** be exhausted!
 - The ground is soaking wet; it **must** have rained last night.
 - She got a perfect score on the test; she **must** have studied hard.
- **3. HAVE TO & HAVE GOT TO: Obligation or Necessity** (Usually external obligation)
 - I **have to** wake up at 5:00 AM for work tomorrow.
 - She **has to** take medication for her allergies.
 - I **have got to** (I've got to) buy groceries; the fridge is empty.
 - We **have got to** submit our taxes by April 15th.

THE NEGATIVES... Lack of Necessity vs. Prohibition

- **1. Lack of Necessity** (It is not required, but you can do it if you want)
- **Don't have to:** You **don't have to** attend the meeting if you are busy.
- **Don't have to:** We **don't have to** wake up early on Saturdays.
- **Don't need to:** You **don't need to** bring a gift to the party.
- **Don't need to:** He **doesn't need to** wear a suit; it's a casual event.
- **Needn't:** You **needn't** worry about the bill; I've already paid it.
- **Needn't:** They **needn't** rush; the train is delayed.

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- **2. Prohibition** (It is strictly forbidden; you cannot do it)
 - **Mustn't:** You **mustn't** smoke inside the hospital. (Strict rule)
 - **Mustn't:** Students **mustn't** use their phones during the exam.
 - **Mustn't:** We **mustn't** tell anyone the secret; it's a surprise.
 - **Mustn't:** You **mustn't** cross the street when the light is red.

- Thank You