

Modal auxiliary words are helping verbs (auxiliary verbs) that express necessity or possibility. Modals include: shall, will, may, might, can, could, must, should, would, and ought to.

Some modal auxiliary words include:

shall	She shall let the dogs out. We shall not go there.
will	They will go to the movie. We will not answer that.
may	She may have a candy. He may not go tonight.
might	We might go shopping. We might not go to dinner.
can	He can swim. He can not ride a bike.
could	He could go hiking. He could not drop the vase.
must	You must go with us. You must not talk back.
should	He should stay behind. He should not skip school.
would	We would like him to go. She would not like to go.
ought to	They ought to stop at the store. They ought not to stop at the store. <small>*Note: When negating "ought to", the word "not" goes between the words 'ought' and 'to'.</small>

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Underline the **modals** in the following sentences.

1. The big cat may try to rip your couch to shreds.
2. We shall be joining my parents for dinner.
3. Johnson might join us tonight for video games.
4. Nancy must be ready for her first exam tomorrow.
5. He ought to stop at the store on his way over.
6. We could watch movies on Netflix.
7. Or, we can go swimming in the pool.
8. We would have to grab our towels first.
9. My mom might bake chocolate chip cookies tonight.
10. We ought to have locked the pool gate when we left.
11. Mike must have broken the net the last time he played basketball with his friends.

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Underline the **modals** in the following sentences.

1. The experiment ought to only take an hour to complete.
2. We may want to complete it tomorrow after school.
3. You could give me your phone number now, so I can call you to set up a time to meet.
4. Or, you may want to call me instead since I have to work tonight at the pizza shop.
5. But we must get it finished by Friday, when it's due.
6. We would be done by 8:30 pm at the latest if we start right after soccer practice.
7. Your brother can join us if he wants to.
8. Our teacher should love our projects once it's finished and we chart our results.
9. We will present our results on science night next week.

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Sometimes modal auxiliary verbs will be negated, and sometimes they may be in contracted form.

shall	She shall let the dogs out.
shall not	She shall not forget to lock the door.
will	They will go to the movie.
won't	They won't go to dinner afterward.
may	She may have a candy.
mayn't	She mayn't have a popsicle.
might	We might go shopping.
mighn't	We mighn't go to dinner.
can	He can ride a bike.
can't	He can't ride long distances yet.
could	He could go hiking.
couldn't	He couldn't hike the difficult trail.
must	You must go with us.
mustn't	You mustn't forget to pick up Mary.
should	He should donate to the charity.
shouldn't	He shouldn't skip school.
would	We would like him to go.
wouldn't	She wouldn't forget to study.
ought to	They ought to stop at the store.
ought not to	They ought not to stop at the store. *Note: When negating "ought to", the word "not" goes between the words 'ought' and 'to'.

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Underline the **modals** in the following sentences.

1. My dentist could see the big abscess as soon as I opened my mouth.
2. Jonah couldn't concentrate well after his concussion.
3. Isabelle may want to skip gymnastics this weekend to go trout fishing.
4. Rob wouldn't want to sway your opinion so he didn't mention anything.
5. Cindy probably won't need to study to pass her architectural exam.
6. You shall not curse in our house young man.
7. Richard could talk to anyone he is so charismatic.
8. Lidia should pass her driver's test on the first try.
9. I wouldn't go too fast through here.