



# MODAL VERBS

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English – I : Unit - III

# MODAL VERBS

- VERB – Two types
  1. MAIN VERBS or ROOT VERBS
    - MEANINGFUL UNIT
    - OPEN SET
  1. AUXILIARY VERBS
    - MEANINGLESS UNIT
    - CLOSED SET

# **1. AUXILIARY VERBS or HELPING VERBS**

**TWO TYPES**

**PRIMARY AUXILIARY**

**SECONDARY AUXILIARY**

# **2. SECONDARY AUXILIARIES**

**MODAL VERBS**

# 1. AUXILIARY VERBS or HELPING VERBS

## 1. PRIMARY AUXILIARIES – 3 TYPES

1. 'BE' FORM – AM / IS – SINGULAR PRESENT / was ARE – PLURAL PRESENT / were
2. 'DO' FORM – Do & Does in Present ; 'Did' in Past tense
3. Perfect Tense – Have & has in Present ; 'had' in Past

# **1. SECONDARY AUXILIARIES or MODALS**

1. Can – Could
2. Will – Would
3. Shall – Should
4. May – Might
5. must
6. Ought to (have to)
7. Need to
8. Dare to
9. Used to

Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.

## EXAMPLES:

He will can go with us. **WRONG**

She must studied very hard. **WRONG**

# Modal Verbs and their substitutes

- **Many modal verbs cannot be used in all of the English tenses. That's why we need to know their meaning and the substitute for these modal verbs.**

will- will not - won't

We use this modal to speak about future actions that we are sure/ convinced about.



will- will not(=won't)

Today is Tuesday. Tomorrow **will be**  
Wednesday.

= I know it because this is a known fact.

**We will not be** in the office  
tomorrow.

= I know it because he is going on vacation.

# Can – Could – Be able to

We use these modals to express:

- General ability/ disability
- possibility / impossibility
- opportunity
- Permission
- request

# Can

I **can** walk.

= I have the general ability to do the action of walking.

I **can't** hear you, it is too noisy.

= I don't have the ability to hear what you are saying because of the noise.

Can

Could 

In the past, can changes to could.

He **could** speak only Hebrew when he was a kid. He **couldn't** speak to his neighbor who speaks only English.

(General ability)

**Practice time-can/could**

may

=future possibility/get permission

# may

- I **may** choose to wear the red dress to the party.  
=I have two dresses. There is a chance that I will choose to wear the red dress and not the blue one.
  
- Today, he **may** come on time.  
=Although usually he comes late,  
There is a possibility that today he will come on time.

# may

- **May** I come to visit you at 5 o'clock?

=I want to come to you but I'm not sure that you want me to come/that you will be at home/that you will let me enter .

- You **may** take only one candy.

=Although there are more candies, I permit you to take only one of them!

might

=possibility



# might

- We **may** come on time, but if you miss the bus, we **might** be late.
  - =I plan to come on time and this is why I want to catch the 7:15 bus.
  - If I catch the 7:30 bus, I can come on time or not, I'm not sure.
- If you advertise on the Internet you **might** get a lot of spam to your e-mail box.
  - =Although you don't want to get spam, there's a risk that you will get it.

should

= advice or a strong suggestion.

- If you want to be a champion you **should** practice every day.
  - =You don't have to practice but then, you will not get better.
- When you make a cheese cake, you **should** first check that you have cheese.
  - or else, it will not be a cheese cake

must - mustn't

**Must** – very strong advice/ obligation

**Mustn't** – things you're not allowed to do. אסור.

- She is sick. She has high fever. She **must** take a pill.  
= very strong advice/ obligation
- You **mustn't** ride your bike without a helmet!  
= you're not allowed to do.

*Semi modals*

have to - has to

had to – will have to

= it is necessary

=shows obligation and giving advice.

**have to/has to** –in the present/near future

**had to** –in the past

**will have to** –in the future

- I **have to** clean my room.  
(My mother forces me to do it.)
- She **has to** finish the test before the bell rings.  
(After the bell rings, you can't go on answering the questions.)
- Gail Devers **had to** take radiation therapy for her decease.  
(...to get well.)
- At the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade we **will have to** leave our school.  
(...and go to high school.)



don't have to  
doesn't have to

**Don't have to / Doesn't have to**  
= it isn't necessary

***Practice time-have/has to***

Ought to – be supposed to – be allowed to

- Ought to = חייב
- be supposed to = we expect him/her to
- be allowed to = permission someone will let/permit him do it.

- That's a great movie. You **ought** to see it! (or You **must** see it.)
- The teacher **is supposed to** base the grades on the tests and assignments.
- On Friday, the students in our school don't **have to** wear the school uniform. They are **allowed to** wear any color they want. (They **are permitted to** / They **can** even wear a pink shirt with yellow stripes.)

# (be) able to

**be able to** show an ability.

-I don't know when I will be ready. I will be able to give you an answer later.

-Is he able to do it? Yes, he knows how to do it and has time to do it.

(=Can he do it?)

negative contractions  
(short form)


<http://www.english-zone.com/spelling/cont-02.html>

# Modal Verbs and their substitutes


- **Many modal verbs cannot be used in all of the English tenses. That's why we need to know their meaning and the substitute for these modal verbs.**

# Practice time

- [Exercise on modal verbs and their substitutes](#)
- [Exercise - modal verb or substitute](#)
- [Exercise on 'must not' and 'need not' \(for soccer fans\)](#)
- <http://www.tolearnenglish.com/exercises/exercise-english-1/exercise-english-476.php>
- <http://www.tolearnenglish.com/exercises/exercise-english-1/exercise-english-443.php>
- <http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/auxiliary-verbs/exercises>
- <http://www.agendaweb.org/verb/modals.html>



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# MODALS



# Auxiliary Verbs

## Primary verbs

Forms	Present	Past
“Be” Forms	am, is, are	was, were, be
“Do” Forms	do , does	did
“Have” Forms	have, has	had

## Modal verbs

Can, could	Have to
Must, May,might	Ought to
Shall, should	Will, would
Had better	Have got to

# Basic Rules of Modal Verbs

- **Modal verbs should be used as it is , without changing to present, past and future tenses**

**Eg. He can speak German**

- **Use the base verb after modal - don't use "to"**

**Eg. He might join us**

- **Can use "not" to make modal verbs negative in simple present tense and simple past tense**

**Eg. He should not be late / They might not come to the party**

# Functions of Modal Auxiliaries

<b>Can</b>	<b>Ability, opportunity, to request, offer permission, possibility, impossibility</b>
<b>Could</b>	<b>Possibility, past ability, suggestions, requests, conditionals</b>
<b>Have to</b>	<b>Certainty, necessity, obligation</b>
<b>Must</b>	<b>Certainty (compulsion), strong recommendation</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Possibility, give or request permission</b>
<b>Might</b>	<b>Possibility in past, conditionals, suggestions</b>

<b>Ought to</b>	<b>Advise (duty), make recommendation, probability</b>
<b>Shall</b>	<b>Future action, suggestion, promises or voluntary actions</b>
<b>Should</b>	<b>Obligation (duty), give advice, make recommendation, expectation</b>
<b>Will</b>	<b>Promises or voluntary actions in future</b>
<b>Would</b>	<b>Polite request, past habitual action, past tense of will, create conditional verb forms</b>
<b>Had better</b>	<b>Make recommendations, express desperate hope, warn people</b>
<b>Have got to</b>	<b>Necessity and obligation</b>

# Can

- I can sing well. (ability)
- We can visit the temple when we are in Madurai. (opportunity)
- Any child can grow up to be a President. (possibility)
- Can I borrow your pen? (permission)
- Can you please post this letter for me? (request)
- I cannot attend the class today. (impossibility)

# Could

- Heavy rains could cause a landslide in the hill stations. (Possibility)
- Nina could swim when she was 5 years old. (Past ability)
- You could watch a movie or go out for dinner. (Suggestion)
- Could you please tell me where the bank is ? (Request)
- We could go for a movie if I didn't have to prepare for the test this weekend. (Conditional )

# Have to

- This answer has to be correct for that sum. (Certainty)
- Plants have to be watered daily to prevent from frying in the summer. (Necessity)
- I have to be in the office at 10 a.m. (Obligation/duty)



# Must

- This must be the right medicine for Covid19. ( Certainty/compulsion)
- Students must pass the NEET examination to join MBBS course.  
(Necessity)
- You must consult the doctor for your breathlessness. (Strong recommendation)

The usage of Must not is to prohibit or stop actions.

- Children must not play with the matchbox.

# May

- It may rain today. (Possibility)
- May I borrow your pen please? (Request permission)
- You may all log out of teams at 9.50.a.m. (Give permission)

# Might

- It might have rained heavily last night. (Possibility in past)
- If I didn't have to work, I might join you for the movie. (Conditionals)
- You might visit the botanical gardens during your visit to Ooty.  
(Suggestion)

# Ought to

- We ought to plant trees. (Advice/duty)
- Doctors ought to be paid well for their hard work. (Recommendation)
- Covid 19 vaccine ought to come within 18 months. (probability)

Ought not is used to advise against doing something

- Old people and children ought not to expose themselves to virus.

# Shall

- I'm afraid Mr. Smith shall become our new director. (Future)
- Shall we go for a picnic? (Suggestion)
- I shall never forget your help? (Promise)
- Shall I get you a cup of coffee? (Voluntary action)

# Should

- I should be in the office by 7 a.m tomorrow. (Obligation)
- You should concentrate more on your studies than playing. (Advice)
- When you go to Agra, you should visit the Taj Mahal.  
(Recommendation)
- By now, they should be already in the theatre. (Expectation)

# Will

- I will take this duty. (Promise)
- I think that it will rain this evening. (Prediction of future)

# Would

- Would you accompany me to the airport? (Polite request)
- Sreeja would dance well when she was a kid. (Past habitual action)
- Even as a poor boy, he knew that he would succeed in life. (Past tense of will)
- If I were a doctor, I would be in the Covid Care Centre helping the sick. (Conditional)



# Had better

- You had better take your umbrella with you today. (Recommendation)
- The class had better got cancelled. (Desperate hope)
- You had better be careful with your diet. (Warning)

# Have got to

- Drivers have got to get a license to drive. (Necessity)
- I have got to be at work by 8.30 a.m. tomorrow. (Obligation)

<b>Certainty</b>	<b>Have to, must</b>
<b>Possibility</b>	<b>Could, can, may, might</b>
<b>Necessity</b>	<b>Must, have to, have got to</b>
<b>Request/Permission</b>	<b>Can, might, could, may</b>
<b>Conditional</b>	<b>Could, might, would</b>
<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Have to, should, have got to</b>
<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Could, might, shall</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Must, ought to, should, had better</b>
<b>Advice</b>	<b>Ought to, ought not</b>
<b>Probability</b>	<b>Ought to</b>

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# CONJUNCTIONS

# Definition of a conjunction

- A conjunction is a word that joins two nouns, phrases, clauses and sentences.
- Two sentences are connected together with each other with a connecting word without changing any of the words in the original sentences.

# Types of conjunctions

- **Coordinating Conjunctions:**
- Connect two verbs, two nouns or two adjectives together
- **Subordinating Conjunctions:**
- Connects two clauses together (dependent and an independent clause)
- **Correlative Conjunctions:**
- Used in pairs to join parts of a sentence of equal importance

# Coordinating conjunctions

for

and

nor

but

or

yet

so

- Join words, phrases, or clauses of equal importance and structure
- I like tea and coffee
- Ram likes tea, but Anthony likes coffee



## Rules in using Coordinating conjunctions

- While joining two words or phrases comma is not required. (e.g) She likes to eat mangoes and apples.
- While joining items in a sentence comma is required. (e.g) He bought apples, oranges, mangoes and grapes from the store.
- Joining two independent clauses comma is required. (e.g) He doesn't like to eat vegetables, but loves to eat meat.

# Subordinating Conjunction

- Main or Independent clause      Subordinate or Dependent clause

We went on a picnic **although** it was raining

Subordinating Conjunction

# Subordinating Conjunctions

after	although	As
because	before	How
If	Once	Since
than	that	Though
till	Until	When
where	whether	While

- A subordinate clause can come either at the beginning or can after the main clause
- e.g. Although it was raining, we went on a picnic.
- We went on a picnic although it was raining

# Correlative Conjunctions

**Both . . . And**

**Either . . . Or**


**Just as . . . So**

**Neither . . . Nor**

**Not only . . . But also**

- Both the teacher and the student should be interested in the subject.
- Ram will play either football or basket ball
- Just as there are fashion trends, so are there food trends.
- Neither Geetha nor Priya wants to join the NCC
- He excelled not only in sports but also in public speaking

# Forms of Conjunctions

- Single                      compound                      Correlative
- 
- and, but,                      in order that                      so ... that
  - Because                      as long as                      neither . . . nor
  - Although                      provided that                      both . . .and
- Coordinating conjunctions – between the words or clauses they join
  - Subordinating conjunctions-beginning or between the main clause and the subordinate clause

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# Direct/Indirect Speech

# Function

**2 Methods of Reporting-speaker speaks**

**Direct –quoting within the**

**Quotation marks “ ” the speaker’s actual words**

**Indirect – reporting what the speaker spoke  
without quoting exact words of the speaker**



# Construction of Direct/Indirect Speech

<b>SPEECH</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL CLAUSE</b>	<b>Joined by</b>	<b>SUBORDINATE CLAUSE (Change of Speech)</b>
<b>(1) Direct</b>	<b>(Reporting Portion)</b> He said to me	<b>(comma)</b>	<b>(Actual Speech)</b> <b>(within inverted commas)</b> "I am going."
<b>(2) Indirect</b>	<b>(Reporting Portion)</b> He said to me	<b>that</b>	<b>(Reported Speech)</b> He was going

# Form

## DIRECT

Quotation Marks are used to indicate the  
Words said by the speaker

## INDIRECT

The comma after the verb “said”-  
quotation marks are removed

The subordinating conjunction  
“that” is introduced

The pronoun ‘I ‘ is changed to ‘he’

The tense changes- ‘am’ to ‘was’ to  
correspond to the tense of reporting  
verb.

# Four Important Rules

- Punctuation
- Pronouns
- Tenses
- Adverbs/Demonstrative -
- Adjectives/pronouns

- Rinku said to me, “I want your English note book today.”
- Rinku said to me **that she wanted my** English book that day
- (all the rules are applied)
- Rinku says, “ I want your English note book today.”
- Rinku says that **she** wants **my** English book that day
- (Except for tense all the rules change)

# Tense change

## DIRECT

Simple Present –**am, is are** –**sing, eat**  
He writes a letter

Present continuous –**is, are, am**– **singing**  
He is writing a letter

Present Perfect –**has/have**  
He has written a letter

Simple Past- **was, were**- **sang, ate**  
He wrote a letter

Past continuous –**was/were**-**singing**  
He was writing a letter

## INDIRECT

Simple Past- **was, were**- **sang, ate**  
He wrote a letter

Past Continuous- **was, were** - **singing**  
He was writing a letter

Past Perfect –**had**  
He had written a letter

Past Perfect- **had been**  
He has written a letter-**had sung/eaten**

Past Perfect Continuous-**had been singing**  
He had been writing as letter

# Change of verbs in tenses

## Direct

Am

Is

Are

Was

Were

Has

Have

Will

Shall

Can

May

Must/need

## Indirect

was

was

were

Had been

Had been

had

had

would

could

might

Had to

# Change in Pronouns

**I/you (subject)**

**We/you**

**Me/you (object)**

**Us/you**

**My/your (Possessive adjective)**

**Our/your**

**Ours/yours**

**Mine/yours (Possessive pronoun)**

**He/she**

**They**

**Him/her**

**Them**

**His/her**

**Their**

**Theirs**

**His/hers**

# Change in adverbs

**Thus**

**Here**

**Now**

**Ago**

**Today/Tonight**

**Tomorrow**

**Yesterday**

**This**

**These**

**So**

**There**

**Then**

**Before**

**That day/That night**

**Next day**

**Previous Day**

**These**

**Those**

# Rules for Declarative Sentence

- Declarative - that
- (e,g) Statement
- Raju said, "I learned swimming last year."
- Raju said **that** he **had learnt swimming the** **previous year.**



# Rules for changing Exclamatory sentence

- Exclamatory -that
- He said, “ Alas! the old man is dead.”
- He exclaimed sadly **that** the old man **was dead**.

# Rules for changing Imperative sentences

- Imperative – to/not to
- The teacher said, “Read your text quietly.”
- The teacher said **to** read **their** text quietly.
- The mother said, “Don’t play in the rain.”
- The mother said **not to** play in the rain.
- Reporting verbs like –asked, ordered, commanded. Requested, advised, implored, warned, etc. are used.

# Rules for changing Interrogative sentence

- Interrogative: (i) WH questions- how
- (ii) Yes/No Questions – Whether or if
- (e.g)
- Rani said to Kamala , “How is your pet dog now?”
- Rani asked Kamala how **was** her pet dog **then**.
- Raju said to Kamala, “Will you buy me sandwich?”
- Raju said to Kamala **whether** she **would** buy **him** a sandwich.