



Hi, I am EeeBee



Modals

Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand what modal verbs are (can, could, will, would, shall, should, etc.).
- They will learn how to use modals to express ability, possibility, permission, and obligation.
- Students will practice using modals in sentences.



Lead in

Underline the modals that show the state in which an action is done.

(a)



I can swim like a fish.

(b)



May I borrow your pen, please!

Modals

Verbs that are used to express the mood or attitude of the speaker are called **Modals**. They are also called modal auxiliaries.

Modals are used to **give advice, seek or give permission, make suggestions, make polite requests, give invitations**, etc.

The most commonly used modals are :

can — could, may, might
will — would, shall, should
must — ought, to, need, dare

Ability: Can, Could

- We use **can** and **can't** to talk about someone's skill or general abilities.

Examples:

1. He **can** speak English fluently.
2. She **can** swim like a fish.

- We use **can** and **can't** to talk about the ability to do something at a specific time in the present or future.

Examples:

1. I **can** meet you.
2. Help! She **can't** swim.



We use **could** and **couldn't** to talk about the past.

Examples :

1. He **could** speak English fluently.
2. We **couldn't** dance at all.

A. Fill in the blanks with can (can't) or could (couldn't).

1. Shravan _____ ride a bike.
2. They _____ eat with chop sticks.
3. He is too young. He _____ ride a bike.
4. He is a linguistic. He _____ speak five languages.



Permission : May, Can and Could

- We use **may** to give or seek permission.

Example : **May** I come in, Sir? (seeking permission)

- We use **can** when we give someone permission to do something.

Example : You **can** bring your best friend to the party if you want.

- We use **could** to say that something was permitted in the past.

Example : Many years ago, he **could** play well, but now he can't.

- We use **can't** to say that something isn't permitted.

Example : You **can't** park your car here.

- We use **couldn't** to say that something was not permitted in the past.

Example : We **couldn't** cross the border without our passport.

B. Fill in the blanks with can, could or may with the help of hints.

1. _____ I use your bike? (very polite)
2. _____ I go to the library, ma'am? (formal)
3. _____ I use your phone? (formal or polite)
4. _____ I ask you a question? (informed)



Skills/Level
WRITING/A2



Certainty/Intention : Shall, Will, Would

- **Shall** is used in 2nd and 3rd person to express promise or threat or determination.

Examples :

1. We **shall** receive a prize.
2. We **shall** be fined for our wrong doing.
3. They **shall** obey you, whether they like it or not.

- **Will** is used to express promise, threat and determination.

Examples :

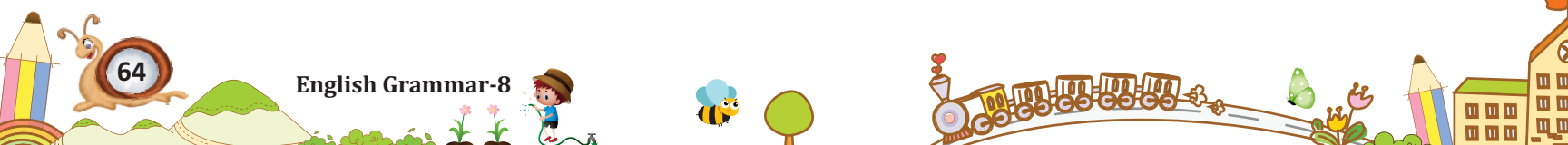
1. He **will** help you.
2. They **will** do it.

- **Shall** is predominantly used with I and we and '**Will**' with the rest of the pronouns.

- **Would** is used to express the likelihood or certainty that something was the case in the immediate past.

Examples :

- Alok : There was a man here just now asking about renting the spare room.
Vivek : That would be Manish. He just moved here from China.





C. Fill in the blanks with will or shall.

1. I _____ go there whatever happens.
2. We _____ not let you go.
3. He _____ get him a good job.
4. They _____ finish this project within two days.

○ Possibility : **May Might Could**

Both **may** and **might** are used to suggest possibility. But **might** suggests a lesser possibility than may. **Could** is also possible in these sentences.

Examples :

- Meenu : Where is your sister?
 Ravi : She **might** be sleeping.
 Krunal : She **may** be in her study room.



Skills/Level
WRITING/A2



D. Fill in the blanks with may, might or could.

1. That _____ be dangerous. (possible)
2. He _____ be in her office. (very lesser possibility)
3. It _____ rain today. (good possibility)
4. He _____ be playing tennis. (lesser possibility)

○ Necessity, Compulsion : **Must Have to Have got to Had to Had got to**

- We use **must** and **have to**, to say that it is necessary to do something.

Examples : You **must** work hard in order to pass in the exam.

- **Must** indicates the speakers personal feeling. Have to expresses some external compulsion.

Example : You **must** do your homework well before you speak. (I want you to do that.)

- **Must** doesn't have a past tense form.

So, we can use **must** to talk about the present or the future.

Example : You **must** visit her now. (present)

- **But we can use have to in all tenses.**

Example : You **have to** come tomorrow.

- **We normally use do/does/did in questions and negative sentences with have to.**

Example : Do you **have to** get there daily?

- **Sometimes we can use have got to in place of have to.**

Example : I **have got to** finish this project by tomorrow.

2. They **have got to** complete this bridge by next month.

○ Suggestion, Advice, Duty (obligation) : **Should Ought to**

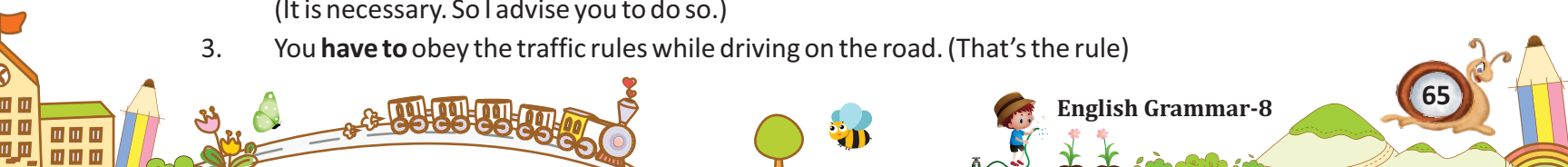
- **We use should to make a suggestion or give advice.**

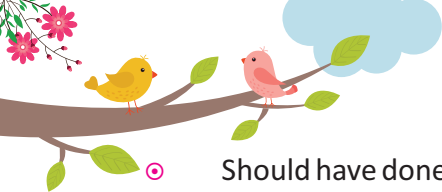
Example : You **should** obey your parents.

- **Should** is not as strong as must or have to.

Examples :

1. You **should** obey the traffic rules.
(It is the right thing to do.)
2. You **must** obey the traffic rules.
(It is necessary. So I advise you to do so.)
3. You **have to** obey the traffic rules while driving on the road. (That's the rule)





Should have done suggests that it was the right thing to do but wasn't done.

Example :

It was a golden opportunity. You should have availed of the opportunity.

E. Fill in the blanks with modals of necessity or compulsion.

1. You _____ be on time if you want to get a seat in the crowded theatre.
2. I _____ to go home.
3. You _____ obey rules of a nation.
4. We do not _____ to school.

F. Fill in the blanks with should or ought to.

1. **I'm quite sure it'll** be a lovely day tomorrow.
It _____ a lovely day tomorrow.
2. **I have a strong feeling that the economic situation will** improve next year.
The economic situation _____ next year.
3. **I'm almost convinced that he'll** arrive this afternoon.
He _____ this afternoon.
4. **We feel fairly sure you'll** enjoy your vacation.
You _____ the vacation.

Promise : Will, Shall

➤ **Will** and shall are used to suggest promise or some kind of assurance.

Will with I and we, and shall with other subjects indicate the force of a promise.

Example : I **shall** invite you for dinner.

As it is now common to use will with all the subjects, shall with I and we is not enough to suggest promise.

We should say:

I assure you, I'll invite you to my birthday party.

We promise, we'll come back within an hour.

Requests : Can, Could, Will, Would

Can and could are used to make requests.

However can and could are used differently.

Can is used to make basic requests from a friend or co-worker. It is often used for small things.

- ⊙ Can you pass the juice?
- ⊙ **Could** has the same function:
- ⊙ Could you pass the juice please?

Would is used to make polite requests in English. The structure is as follows:

- ⊙ Would you mind + Verb + ing

Examples :

- ⊙ Would you mind closing the door?
- ⊙ Would you mind turning down the radio?

You can also say "do you mind", but "would you mind" is more polite.

- ⊙ Do you mind turning off the music?
- ⊙ Would you mind turning off the music?

'Would' can also be used to make polite requests with the verb "like".





- I would like some help with my math homework please.

This is the same as using the verb “want”. However, would is more polite.

- I want a drink.

- I would like a drink.

These types of requests are more common when ordering something.

Take a look at these examples :

- I would like rice with my chicken.

- I would like another coke please.

- Can and could are more usual than will and would.

- **Prohibition : Mustn't ought not to**

Mustn't suggests prohibition. Ought not is like that of shouldn't.

Examples :

1. You **mustn't** walk in the middle of the road in a busy street. (It is prohibited)

2. You **ought not to** make fun of the elderly people.

(As duty, you should not. It is not right to ...)

- **Wish : May**

May is normally used to express a wish.

Examples :

1. **May** God bless you!

2. **May** you live long!



Points to Remember

- Verbs that are used to express the mood or attitude of the speaker are called **Modals**.
- **Modals** are used to give advice, seek or give permission, make suggestions.
- Can, could, may might, will, would, shall, should, must, ought to, need and dare are **Examples of Modals**.



My Activity Corner

Fill in the blanks using can, could or may.

1. Vikas (to mother) : Mother I am hungry. _____ I eat the cake?

Mother : Why not? You _____ eat all of them if you like.

2. Mr Pandey (to a neighbour) : _____ I use your bike, please?

Mr Roy : Yes, you're welcome.



My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

