

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Using Modal Verbs

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: (5G4.1c) [Using modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility](#)

English Year 5: (5G4.1c) [Indicating degrees of possibility using modal verbs \[for example, might, should, will, must\]](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using modal verbs in simple sentences. All common modal verbs used (can, could, should, may, shall, might, must, will, would).

Expected Questions to support using common modal verbs in sentences. All common modal verbs used and the semi-modal verbs 'ought to' and 'used to'.

Greater Depth Questions to support using modal verbs in more complex sentences. A variety of modal verbs used, including in the past tense, in the negative and words which can be used to create modal expressions such as, 'dare to', 'need to', 'had better' and 'rather'.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Modal Verbs

Using Modal Verbs

1a. Underline the modal verb in the sentence below.

Boris may be able to come too.



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1b. Underline the modal verb in the sentence below.

Where could we go tomorrow?



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2a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

must

possibility

might

certainty



VF

2b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

may

certainty

will

possibility



VF

3a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

This _____ be the best trip ever!

could

will



VF

3b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show certainty.

That mess _____ go in the bin.

must

can



VF

4a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below less certain.

The plane shall/should take off on time.



VF

4b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below most certain.

The firework display will/may be fantastic.



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Using Modal Verbs

5a. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

- A. You **must** see the new art exhibition, it's fascinating!
- B. If you practice extremely hard, you **may** win the competition.



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Using Modal Verbs

5b. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

- A. That poor dog **ought** to go to the vets!
- B. You **should** go and visit your Grandma as she's unwell.



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6a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

will

possibility

could

probable

ought to

certainty



VF

6b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

can

certainty

must

ability

might

possibility



VF

7a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

The hotel _____ have been nicer if it had been redecorated.

should

may

can



VF

7b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show certainty.

The policeman _____ tell us the right direction to go.

should

could

will



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8a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below most certain.

The weather forecaster said that it **may/will** be stormy tomorrow.



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8b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below less certain.

You really **must/ought** to do your homework as soon as you get it.



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Using Modal Verbs

Using Modal Verbs

9a. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. One hundred balloons ought to be enough, but two hundred would be better.

B. You had better answer the phone, it may be important.



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9b. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. You should not go that way, you might get lost.

B. The team need to row harder or they could lose the competition.



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10a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

shall

lack of ability

cannot

obligation

should

determination



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10b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

have to

lack of permission

ought to

advice

may not

obligation



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11a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show ability.

You should have asked earlier I _____ have shown you how to do it properly.

might

could

would



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11b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

If you _____ take the risk, you might find the experience exhilarating.

need to

can

dare to



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12a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below less certain.

The forest fire should not/would not reach the town if the firebreak is created in time.



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12b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentence below more obligatory.

The key speaker had better/ought to be here before the delegates arrive for the conference.



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Varied Fluency Using Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1a. **may**
- 2a. **must – certainty; might – possibility**
- 3a. **could**
- 4a. **should**

Expected

- 5a. **A – must; B – may.**
- 6a. **will – certainty; could – possibility; ought to – probable**
- 7a. **may**
- 8a. **will**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **A – ought to, would; B – had better, may**
- 10a. **shall – determination; cannot – lack of ability; should – obligation**
- 11a. **could**
- 12a. **should not**

Varied Fluency Using Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1b. **could**
- 2b. **may – possibility; will – certainty**
- 3b. **must**
- 4b. **will**

Expected

- 5b. **A – ought to; B – should**
- 6b. **can – ability; must – certainty; might – possibility**
- 7b. **will**
- 8b. **ought to**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **A – should, might; B – need to, could**
- 10b. **have to – obligation; ought to – advice; may not – lack of permission**
- 11b. **dare to**
- 12b. **had better**