



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: AUGUST, 2026
Worksheet No: 12	Topic: MODALS	Note: To be done in the notebook

A **modal verb** (or modal auxiliary verb) is a special type of helping verb used alongside a main verb to express **ability, permission, possibility, necessity, advice, obligation, or willingness**.



Key Rules of Modal Verbs:

1. **Never change form:** Modal verbs do not take -s, -ed, or -ing (e.g., say "*She can swim*", not "*She cans swim*").
2. **Followed by base verb:** They are immediately followed by the main verb in its base form (infinitive without *to*), except for *ought to* and *have to*.
3. **Form negatives easily:** Add *not* directly after the modal verb (e.g., *cannot*, *should not*, *must not*).

Kinds of Modal Verbs & Examples:

Kind / Function	Common Modal Verbs	Examples
Ability	can, could	• I can solve this algebra equation. • She could speak fluent French when she was seven.
Permission	can, may, could	• May I leave the classroom to collect my textbook? • You can borrow my notes after school.
Possibility / Probability	may, might, could	• It might rain heavily later this afternoon. • The stadium could be full for the championship game.
Necessity & Strong Obligation	must, have to	• All students must submit their lab reports by Friday. • We have to wear our physical education uniforms today.
Advice & Weak Obligation	should, ought to	• You should review your notes before taking the test.

Kind / Function	Common Modal Verbs	Examples
		• We ought to show respect to our school staff.
Prohibition	must not, cannot	• You must not use your phone during the examination. • Visitors cannot enter the science lab unattended.
Willingness / Offers / Future	will, would, shall	• I will assist you with the poster project. • Would you like a cup of warm tea?

Exercise 1

Underline the modal verb and circle the main verb in each of the following sentences.

1. You should double-check your calculations before submitting the test.
2. The weather forecast indicates that it might snow tonight.
3. Every contestant must register at the desk prior to the event.
4. Could you pass the dictionary on the second shelf?
5. With enough practice, Maya can play the cello gracefully.



Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate modal verbs from the options in parentheses.

1. You _____ (must / might) wear a seatbelt while driving; it is mandated by law.
2. I _____ (should / can) speak two languages fluently, but I want to learn a third.
3. Excuse me, Mr. Davis, _____ (might / may) I ask a quick question about the assignment?
4. Take an umbrella with you; it _____ (must / could) rain later today.
5. You _____ (must not / shouldn't) eat so much junk food if you want to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
6. According to the school guidelines, students _____ (ought to / can) treat everyone with kindness.
7. I _____ (would / must) help you clean the auditorium, but I have a dentist appointment at 4 pm.

Exercise 3

Rewrite each sentence using the appropriate modal verb indicated in parentheses without changing the original meaning.

1. It is possible that the library is open on Saturday morning. (Use **may**)
2. It is necessary for all Grade 8 students to complete the safety module. (Use **must**)
3. You are advised to study at least two hours every evening. (Use **should**)

4. Was Marcus able to finish his project on time? (*Use **could***)
5. It is strictly forbidden to bring glass bottles into the gymnasium. (*Use **must not***)

Exercise 4

Find and underline the modal verb mistake in each sentence. Then write the correct sentence below.

1. She cans play the piano better than anyone in our class.
2. You should to wash your hands before eating dinner.
3. Students must not to leave the building during lunch break.
4. He mighted go to the library after school yesterday.