



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: X

QUESTION BANK (2024-2025)

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

TOPIC: MODAL VERBS

A modal verb is a type of verb that contextually indicates a modality such as a likelihood, ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestion, order, obligation, necessity, possibility or advice. Modal verbs generally accompany the base form of another verb.

In easier words, Modal Verbs are the verbs that are used before main verbs to express permission/necessity/certainty/ability etc.

E.g.: I **can** eat an entire pizza.

My keys **must** be in the car.

It **might** rain tomorrow.

May I ask a question?

Types of Modals

Here are the different types of modal verbs and their meanings:

1. Modals of ability:

- Can: Used to express present ability

Example: "I can speak three languages.

- Could: Used to express past ability or present inability.

Example: I could help you later, but I'm busy now.

2. Modals of possibility:

- May: Used to express possibility or permission.

Example: It may rain tomorrow.

- Might: Used to express a lower degree of possibility than "may."

Example: I might win the lottery this week

- Can/Could: Can also be used to express possibility, especially in informal contexts.

Example: It could be sunny tomorrow, despite the forecast.

3. Modals of Probability

- May/Might: Express a possibility or chance that something is true or will happen. They suggest a less certain degree of probability than "must" or "should."

Example: "It may rain tomorrow, so bring an umbrella just in case."

- Could: Indicates a possible but uncertain situation. It's often used to suggest a less likely possibility than "may" or "might."

Example: “The traffic could be bad this evening, so let’s leave early.”

- **Must:** Expresses a strong degree of certainty, often based on evidence or logical reasoning. It implies that something is almost certainly true or likely to happen.

Example: “She’s been studying all night. She must be exhausted.”

- **Should:** Implies a strong expectation based on what is normal or expected. It suggests that something is likely to happen or be true, but there’s a possibility it might not.

Example: “The train should arrive on time, but you never know with public transport.”

- **Ought to:** Expresses a strong expectation or recommendation based on what is considered desirable or appropriate. Implies a high degree of certainty about what is likely to happen or be true.

Example: He ought to have finished his work by now.

4. Modals of obligation:

- **Must:** Used to express strong obligation or necessity.

Example: Students must wear ID cards at all times.

- **Have to:** Used to express external obligation or necessity.

Example: I have to finish this report before the deadline.

- **Should:** Used to express advice or suggestion.

Example: “You should apologize for your bad behavior.”

5. Modals of advice:

- **Should:** It suggests that something is a good idea or the right thing to do.

Example: You should get some rest before your big presentation tomorrow.

- **Ought to:** Formal and suggests a stronger sense of obligation or duty.

Example: You ought to apologize to your friend for what you said.

- **Must:** This modal conveys a strong obligation or necessity.

Example: You must study hard for your exams.

- **Could:** “could” can be used to make suggestions in a more tentative or polite way.

Example: You could ask your neighbor for help.

6. Modals of permission:

- **May:** Used to ask for permission or give permission.

Example: May I use your computer?

- **Can:** Can also be used to ask for permission in informal contexts.

Example: Can you please pass the salt?

7. Modals of Prohibition:

- **Must not (mustn’t):** Used for strong prohibition, often associated with rules, laws, or strict instructions.

Example: “Students must not cheat on exams.”

- **Cannot (can’t):** Expresses impossibility due to lack of ability, permission, or circumstance.

Example: "You can't drive without a license."

- May not: Formal, polite way to express prohibition, often used in requests or instructions.

Example: "May I ask you not to speak loudly in the room?"

- Should not (shouldn't): Suggests strong advice against doing something due to potential negative consequences.

Example: "You shouldn't eat too much junk food."

- Ought not to: Similar to "should not," but slightly more formal and emphasizes the undesirability of the action.

Example: "You ought not to treat your friends badly."

- Will not: Strong determination not to do something, often used in personal declarations or promises.

Example: "I will not give up on my dream."

I. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate modal verbs.

1. You _____ not touch that vase, it's very fragile. (must / may not / can)

Answer: must not

2. We _____ leave early tomorrow if we want to avoid the traffic. (may / can / should)

Answer: should

3. There's a chance it _____ rain later this afternoon. (might / ought to / will)

Answer: might

4. _____ you please open the window? (could / should/ might)

Answer: could

5. You _____ get more exercise. It's good for your health. (should / must / need)

Answer: should

6. If I were you, I _____ apologize for the bad behavior. (would / must / might)

Answer: would

7. Students _____ wear their uniforms to school on weekdays. (have to / may / could)

Answer: have to

8. I _____ finish this project before the deadline. (must / shall / can)

Answer: must

9. The train _____ arrive any minute now. (must / should / can)

Answer: should

10. You _____ try this new restaurant; it has amazing reviews. (should / can / could)

Answer: should

11. I'm not sure if I _____ attend the meeting tomorrow, given my busy schedule. (will / can / could)

Answer: can

12. You _____ speak to the manager if you have any complaints. (should / may / will)

Answer: should

13. You _____ visit the Dentist at least twice a year. (shall / may / should)

Answer: should

14. _____ you please help me with these bags? (Can / Would / Should)

Answer: Could

15. You _____ respect your elders, no matter what. (should / have to / may)

Answer: should

16. We _____ not be able to go on vacation this year due to financial constraints. (may / might / must)

Answer: may

17. _____ I borrow your pen for a moment? (Can / May / Should)

Answer: May

18. He _____ play the guitar very well when he was younger. (can / could / may)

Answer: could

19. She _____ speak three languages fluently. (can / could / may)

Answer: can

20. If I _____ win the lottery, I would travel the world. (would / will / could)

Answer: would

II. Complete the dialogues using the most appropriate modal verbs.

1. Characters: A student (Maya) and a librarian (Mr. Sharma)

Maya: _____ (A- may/ can) I borrow these four books, please?

Mr. Sharma: Students _____ (B – will/can) only borrow two books at a time. (Library rules)

Maya: _____ (C- will/could) you please let me borrow just one more? I _____ (D – must /have to) submit my assignment next week. I promise to return them all on time.

Mr. Sharma: Hmm... Well, in this case, you _____ (E- can / should) take one more as long as you're very careful with them.

Ans.

A. May

B. can

C. could

D. have

E. can

2. Two friends Rahul and Tushar in a cafeteria.

Rahul: I _____ (A- couldn't / can't) decide what to get. Everything looks so good!

Tushar: Well, you _____ (B- could / must) definitely try the cheeseburger. It's their specialty.

Rahul: Hmm, I feel I _____ (C-should / must) not eat junk more than once a week.

Tushar: Okay, then you _____ (D- must/have to) try the veggie pasta. It's super healthy and delicious.

Rahul: That sounds good! I _____ (E- may / might) just go for that. Thanks!

Ans.

A. can't

B. must

C. should

D. must

E. might

3. Liam and Emma out in a field.

Liam: Wow, look at those clouds! I think it _____ (A- can/might) rain soon.

Emma: You're right! We _____ (B- should/must) probably head for shelter before it starts to pour.

Liam: Yes, I _____ (C- can/could) not risk getting sick when exams are round the corner.

Liam: Good idea! Let's run across the street. We _____ (D-can/may) find shelter there.

Emma: Perfect! And who knows, maybe it _____ (E- will/should) clear up soon and we can shop for some stationery items.

Ans.

A. might

B. should

- C. can
- D. may
- E. will

4. Security Checkpoint

Security Person: Sir, I'm afraid you _____ (A- won't / can't) bring this knife through security. It's a prohibited item.

Mark: Oh, come on! It's just a little pocket knife.

Security Person: I understand, but rules are rules. Sharp objects are not allowed on board for safety reasons. You'll _____ (B-have to/ must) discard it before proceeding.

Mark: What am I supposed to do with it then? I can't just leave it here!

Security Person: There are a few options. You _____ (C- could / may) mail it back home or arrange for someone to pick it up from the airport. If it's not valuable, you _____ (D- might / may) be able to dispose of it in the designated bin here.

Mark: This is so frustrating!

Security Person: I'm really sorry, but no exceptions _____ (E-can/will) be made for prohibited items. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Ans.

- A. can't
- B. have to
- C. could
- D. might
- E. can

5. A student and a teacher

Ben: These math problems are so hard! I _____ (A – will/may) fail if this question is asked in the test.

Teacher: Don't worry, Ben. I _____ (B – could/may/will) help you.

Ben: _____ (C – Could/Will) you maybe teach me shortcuts to arrive at the solution?

Teacher: No shortcuts, unfortunately. But I _____ (D-can/could) offer you some strategies.

Perhaps if we rewrite the equation or draw a diagram, it might spark something new.

Ben: Yes, let me try solving it again.

Teacher: You _____ (E- can/could) do this, Ben. You've always been good at math, and with a little patience and guidance, you'll crack this nut in no time.

Ans.

- A. may
- B. will
- C. Could
- D. can
- E. can