



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)
CLASS – IX
MODALS

Modal Auxiliary Verbs or Modals are verbs that are used to express the mood or attitude of the speaker. They do not appear alone in the sentence and always have a main verb with them. Further, they are non-finite verbs meaning they do not change forms in any case.

For example

You should go for a morning jog every day.

They must attend tomorrow's party.

May I use your phone please?

You can park the car in front of the pole.

There are primarily 9 Modals-Can, Could, Shall, Should, Will, Would, May, Might and Must

Functions of Modals

Will

(i) To show promise, willingness and determination with the first person (I, we)

e.g.

I will buy you a mobile phone. (promise)

We will accompany you to the seminar. (willingness)

We will bring a change to the society. (determination)

(ii) To express request, insistence, assumption, characteristic or habit

e.g.

Will you please open the window? (request)

He will be taking his music class now. (assumption)

I will go shopping with you. (insistence)

Animals will hibernate during winter. (characteristic or habit)

Negative Form of will: Will not/Won't

e.g. I will not waste my time.

Would (Past Form of 'Will')

i) To express past habit

e.g. I would drink milk every day.

(ii) For request

e.g. Would you please lend me your car?

(iii) To express wish

e.g. I wish you would be happy.

(iv) To express an imaginary condition

e.g. I would have a big car if I earned more.

Negative Form of Would: Would not/Wouldn't

e.g. She would not eat anything after 8 o'clock at night

Shall

(i) To ask for suggestion or request with the first person (I, We) in the interrogative

e.g.

Shall I have a glass of water? (request)

Shall we write a book? (suggestion)

(ii) With the second and third person to indicate threat warning, command, promise and advice.

e.g. If you neglect your duties, you shall be punished. (threat/warning)

You shall leave right away. (command)

She shall get a new laptop. (promise)

You shall only take liquid food for some days. (advice)

Negative Form of Shall: Shall not/Shan't

e.g. He shall not exercise today.

Should (Past Form of 'Shall')

(i) To express duty or obligation

e.g.

You should study well. (duty)

We should protect our loved ones. (obligation)

(ii) To express opinion

e.g. They should be feeling better now.

(iii) To give or take advice or suggestion

e.g.

We should leave early. (suggestion)

You should eat on time. (Advice)

(iv) After 'lest' when someone expresses fear, possibility or warning.

e.g.

Eat on time lest you should fall sick.

Negative Form of Should: Should not/Shouldn't

e.g. You shouldn't talk loudly here.

Can

(i) To express an ability, capability, capacity or power

e.g.

She can run 10 kms in a day. (ability)

He can pass the examination. (capacity)

Can you understand Sanskrit? (capability)

She can give me a promotion. (power)

(ii) To show possibility

He can slip down the stairs.

e.g.

My father can visit here this year.

(iii) To take or give permission

e.g. Can I use your pen?

You can use my pen.

Negative Form of Can: Cannot/Can't

e.g. I cannot run faster than this,

Could (Past Form of 'Can')

(i) To express ability/talent in the past

e.g. I could type really fast.

(ii) To express polite request

e.g. Could you please move aside?

Negative Form of Could: Could not/Couldn't

e.g. I couldn't reach there on time.

May

(i) To show possibility or probability

e.g. She may come tonight. (possibility)

It may rain tomorrow. (probability)

(ii) To give or take permission

e.g. May I take this plate?

Yes, you may take it.

(iii) To wish or pray

e.g. May you become healthy! (wish)

May God bless us abundantly! (pray)

(iv) To show a purpose

e.g. My friend is working hard, so that he may achieve his wishes.

Negative Form of May: May not/Mayn't

e.g. It may not be his fault.

Might (Past Form of 'May')

(i) To express less possibility

e.g. The programme might start late.

(ii) For permission

e.g. Might I turn on the speaker?

(iii) To express a guess

e.g. That might be the cause of the fire.

Negative Form of Might: Might not/Mightn't

e.g. She might not reach today.

Note It 'May' and 'Might' can be used interchangeably to express possibility. However, we usually use 'Might' when something is less likely and 'May' when it is more likely.

Must

(i) To express necessity or obligation

E.g. You must finish this project this week. (necessity)

We must serve our nation. (obligation)

(ii) To indicate assumption or conclusion.

E.g. She must be here for the dress. (assumption)

Mr. Gupta must be a good speaker. (conclusion).

(iii) In case of prohibition.

E.g. You must not cheat during examinations.

Negative form of must: Must not / Mustn't

E.g. You must not get up late.

Semi Modals

Need, used to, ought to and dare are considered semi-modals because they can be used either as modal auxiliaries or as main verbs.

Need/Need to

As a modal auxiliary verb in negative terms, it expresses the speaker's authority or advice and is used for the present and the future.

e.g. You needn't type this letter.

(i) The interrogative is formed by inversion.

e.g. Need I go now?

(ii) Its past is needed to in the affirmative sentence, need not have in the negative and need have in the interrogative.

e.g. Need I have asked for her advice? (Interrogative in the past)

I needed to study hard. (Affirmative in the past)

You needn't have eaten spicy food. (Negative in the past)

You need to go to for swimming class-it is helpful. (Affirmative in the future)

Dare

As a modal auxiliary, dare refers to being bold and courageous. The negative is formed by dare not and the interrogative by inversion.

e.g. Dare we ask him?

I dare not skip classes.

Used to

As a modal auxiliary, it presents a discontinued habit or a past situation which is no more applicable in the present.

e.g. He used to get up early in the morning.

Ought to

(i) To express moral obligation or duty

e.g. You ought to respect your teachers. (moral obligation)

We ought to help the needy. (duty)

(ii) To give advice

e.g. You ought to work hard to achieve success.

Negative Form of Ought to Ought not to/Oughtn't to

e.g. You ought not to treat animals badly.

Exercises:

1. Complete the passage by filling the blanks with appropriate modals.

Mr. Kapoor (a) to pay Rajender back: otherwise, Rajender has said that he (b) Inform the police. Everyone feels that Mr. Kapoor (c) return the money. Rather, he (d) not have taken the money in the first place, especially because he is from a well-to-do family.

2. Complete the passage by filling the blanks with appropriate modals.

I was delighted to know that you are building a new house. As a friend, I (a) like to offer a word of advice that (b) largely solve your water problems in future years. You (c) Build in a water harvesting system in your house. This (d) be done by digging a percolation tank near your house. Drains from the roof (e) carry the rainwater to the tank. This (f) help to recharge groundwater.

3. Complete the passage by filling the blanks with appropriate modals.

If we sit in an incorrect posture, we (a) strain our back. As far as possible, this (b) be avoided. If the posture becomes a part of habit, a low back pain invariably develops. It (c) be cured if we become conscious of our posture. We can also take time to perform a few exercises. If the exercises are done regularly, the back ache (d) certainly, be cured. it (e) within the spine. also improve the blood circulation within the spine.

4. Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with appropriate modals.

God is great and we (a) be grateful to him. We (b) do our duty and leave the reward in the hands of God. Ultimately, God (c) help us. We (d) leave everything to God.

5. Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with appropriate modals.

If you (a) some assistance organising your desk, your cupboard and your room, Tidy Teens (b) help. This student-run group raises money for charity by cleaning up. "We didn't realise it when we started, but we (c) thought of a better way to raise money", says 17-years-old Brian Mason, who helped establish the group. We (d) support such groups.

6. Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with appropriate modals.

Anubha (a) thought she was dreaming when she heard that she'd won the National Secondary School Essay Contest. "I didn't believe it", she explains. "I just laughed at first, which I probably (b) done." The prize, a cheque for 10000 will be awarded to Anubha at a ceremony in March. "I (c) guessed that there would be a price to pay for the award and there is, I (d) write a speech to give at the ceremony", Anubha says. "I'm pretty nervous but I hope I (e) able to do a good job.

7. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to unite the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below.

	Before	Omission	After
Let's go shopping. I have to buy things.	buy	many	things
(a) I believe I get them all in this shop. You			
(b) see, I buy a present for my friend. Gloves, I think would be			

(c) a great idea. I think they be on this floor.			
(d) I see just the kind we want.			
(e) You try these on.			
	Before	Omission	After
8 (a) She thought she do something			
(b) for the lake. It cost Rs. 42 crore			
(c) to clean the lake. "Still", I thought, "I do			
(d) something. I reach out to the people.			
(e) I decided that talk to the people.			

ANSWERS:

- (a) ought to (b) will (c) should (d) should
- (a) would (b) will (c) should (d) can (e) will (f) will
- (a) might (b) should (c) can (d) will (e) will
- (a) should (b) must (c) will (d) should
- (a) need (b) might (c) could not have (d) must/should
- (a) must have (b) should not have (c) should have (d) have to (e) would be

7. Before	Omission	After
(a) I	Can	Get
(b) I	Have to	Buy
(c) They	Might	Be
(d) I	Can	See
(e) You	Should	Try
8. Before	Omission	After
(a) She	Could	Do
(b) It	Would	Cost
(c) I	Must	Do
(d) I	Could	Reach
(e) I	Would	Talk