

LORD BUDDHA (1)
NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

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class - 9th

Subject - English Grammar

Chapter - 3rd, Modals Verb

MODAL VERBS

Modals are those auxiliary verbs (helping verbs) which express the 'mode' or 'manner' of the actions indicated by the main verb. They express modes such as ability, possibility, permission, obligation etc.

Examples:

We can speak in English (Ability)

It might rain in the evening (Possibility)

May I go to watch a movie? (Permission)

You must do your duty. (Obligation)

USAGE OF MODALS

→ A modal does not change, according to the number person of the Subject.

Examples:

We can play. They can play

You can play. She can play

I can play.

→ A modal is always used with a verb in its basic form.

→ Modals can be used alone in response to a question.

E.g.

Can you speak? I can.

Will you speak? I will.

Will you dance? I will or I may.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MODAL
AUXILIARIES:

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

Shall—

Used in 1st person to give information about future action.

E.g. I shall finish this topic by tomorrow.

Used in 2nd and 3rd person to express command, threat determination.

E.g. (i) You shall leave the class at once (Command)

(ii) She shall study regularly and succeed (Determination)

(iii) If you make a noise, you shall be punished (Threat)

(iv) He shall get a prize if he succeed (Promise)

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In interrogative sentences, 'shall' is used with 1st person to indicate offer or suggestion and with 3rd person to know the desire of the person to.

E.g.

(i) Shall I make a cup of coffee for you? (offer)

(ii) Which book shall I buy (Asking to suggest)

(iii) Shall the florist send flowers to your friends?

SHOULD

1 - past tense of 'shall' in indirect speech. e.g. I said that I should succeed.

2 - To express duty or obligation
e.g. We should obey our parents.

3 - To express conditions.
e.g. Should this happen, I
will resign.

4 - To express request. e.g.
I should like to inform you
about my inability to come.

5 - For advice. e.g. - You should not
tell a lie.

Will — Used in 2nd person and 3rd
person to express certainty

e.g. You will begin the work
tomorrow.

Note: In modern English there
is a tendency to use 'Will' in
all persons to indicate future
tense, request, promise, determi-
nation, habit and characteristics.

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1 - To show Future tense -

e.g. - My friend will come tomorrow.

2 - To express promise -

e.g. I will take care of your brother

3 - To express Request -

e.g. Will you have coffee?

4 - To show determination -

e.g. They will fight to finish.

5 - To Show Habit -

e.g. She will be talking all the time with no work.

6- To Show Characteristics -

e.g. This machine will work very well and will not give any trouble.

WOULD

1- Used to indicate past tense of 'Will'

e.g. He said that he would be back soon.

2- To express wish or desire.

e.g. I would like to ask you something.

3- To express future in past.

e.g. She asked me if I would help her.

4- To show past habits.

e.g. In the past he would go for long walk.