Modals

A modal verb is a type of verb that is used to indicate or express speaker's general intentions as well as the speaker's belief as to whether the proposition (statement) or assertion that expresses a judgement or opinion) expressed is true, desirable, obligatory or actual.

Types of Modals ⇒

There are various types of modal verbs, i.e., Can, Could, May, Might, Shall, Should, will, Would, Must, Ought to, Used to, Need and Dare

① **Can** ⇒ @ Can is used to show permission, possibility and ability. To express ability which may be physical, mental or circumstantial

Examples:

I can do this work
I can speak English.
Can I leave early today?

This news can be true
You can stay here

ⓑ Can is also used instead of or in the place of 'have the right to'

Example:

You cannot enter the examination hall = You don't have the right to change the program.

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(2) Could ⇒ Could is used to represent a suggestion, request, permission, future possibility and ability in the past

Examples:

He could get a job = He was able to get a job

Anu gave up her dreams so that she could marry him.

Could i go for a movie? (more polite request than can)

I think we could do it.

(3) May →

May is used to ask permission and to show future possibility.

Examples:

It may rain today.

She may come tomorrow.

They may be watching a movie.

(4) Might

Might is used as a past equvalent to May. Might is also used to show present and future possibility. Might is also use to express polite request / permission

Examples:

It might rain today.

The train might be late

Might I use your pen?

You might speak in the meeting.

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5 **Must** → Must shows the necessity, obligation and prohibition.

Examples:

I must go now.

He must consult a good doctor at once.

6 **Shall / will** → Shall / will is used in the formation of future tense. Shall is used with (I, we) and will is used with Second Person (you) and Third Person (He, She, It, They) and both are used to express the Pure Futurity

Examples:

I shall read this book

He will attend the function.

7 **Should** → Should is used as a past equivlant to Shall, to express advice and suggestion, to express moral obligation, to express request and to express purpose (Lest ..... should)

Examples:

~~I said that I would~~

We should work hard

You should take exercise daily

I should like to have your pen.

Work hard lest you should fail.

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(8) Would → Would is used as past equivalent to will; to express past habits, to express determination, to express polite request, to express unreal condition, to express probability and to express strong desire.

Examples:

I would stand by you in any trouble.

Would you help me?

If you had worked hard, you would have passed

He would be coming back.

(9) Ought to ⇒ 'Ought to' is used to express moral responsibility, social binding, to express advice, to express strong possibility and to express moral responsibility in the past.

Examples:

We ought to labour hard.

You ought to consult a doctor.

India ought to win the match.

You ought to have completed the work.

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(10) **Used to:-**

'Used to' is used to express habitual / regular actions in the past.

Examples:

Mahatma Gandhi used to spin for an hour.

I used to walk ten k.m. every day.

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