

MODAL AND SEMI-MODAL VERBS

Definition: Modals and Semi-Modals are auxiliary verbs that are used to add a certain mode to the main verbs. Although **Modals** can't be conjugated, we can replace them with **semi-modals** that convey the same meaning but can be used in different tenses, these are always followed by the **infinitive**.

Here is a list of modals and semi modals the modes they might add to the main verb and examples:

MODAL	MODE	EXAMPLES	NEGATIVE MEANING
CAN	ABILITY	David can drive.	David can't drive.
	PERMISSION	Can I use my phone?	Can't I wait a bit more?
COULD	REQUEST	Could you lend me a pen?	Couldn't you help me with this?
	PAST ABILITY	He could play football when he was young.	She couldn't sleep yesterday.
	UNCERTAINTY	It could be him.	It couldn't be her.
MAY	PROBABILITY	I may go tomorrow.	It may not happen.
	PERMISSION (POLITE)	May I go out for a while?	May I not use the same colors?
MIGHT	PROBABILITY	It might snow tomorrow.	She might not come.
MUST	OBLIGATION	The kids must sleep.	The kids mustn't stay up late.
	HIGH CERTAINTY	The library must be close.	This mustn't be the final result.
SHOULD	ADVICE	Drivers should be careful.	Students shouldn't be lazy.
	PARTIAL CERTAINTY	My keys should be next to the TV.	This book shouldn't be on this shelf.
SHALL	SUGGESTION	Shall we go to the park?	Shall we not go visit Jack?
WILL	FUTURE	They will travel tomorrow.	I won't buy new books.
WOULD	INTENTION	I would go to his next party.	I wouldn't eat that if I were you.
	SUGGESTION	Would you like some tea?	Wouldn't you come visit soon?

Semi-Modals

Modal	Semi-Modal
can	Be able to
must	Have to
should	Need to

Since modals can't be conjugated we use semi-modals to replace them in such situations:

- He **must** revise his lessons – he **had to** revise his lessons – he **will have to** revise his lessons.
- He **can** drive – he **could** drive – he **was able to** drive – he **will be able to** drive.
- You **should** listen – you **needed** to listen – you **will need** to listen.

NOTE: THE REST OF THE MODELS CAN BE USED IN THE PAST IN THE FORM OF THE **PERFECT MODAL**

MODAL + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

BUT THEY DON'T ALWAYS CONVEY THE SAME MEANING