

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Using Modal Verbs

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: (5G4.1c) [Using modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility](#)

English Year 5: (5G4.1c) [Indicating degrees of possibility using modal verbs \[for example, might, should, will, must\]](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using modal verbs in single-clause sentences.

Expected Questions to support using modal and semi-modal verbs in single and multi-clause sentences. Includes semi-modal verbs 'ought to' and 'used to'.

Greater Depth Questions to support using modal and semi-modal verbs in the negative, as well as uncommon modal expressions used in multi-clause sentences.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Modal Verbs

Using Modal Verbs

1a. Underline the modal verb in the sentence below.

Boris may be able to come too.



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1b. Underline the modal verb in the sentence below.

Where could we go tomorrow?



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2a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

must

possibility

might

certainty



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2b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

may

certainty

will

possibility



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3a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

This _____ be the best trip ever!

could

will



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3b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show certainty.

That mess _____ go in the bin.

must

can



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4a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences less certain.

A. The plane shall/should take off on time.

B. The coach will/might be able to take us all.



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4b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences most certain.

A. The firework display will/may be fantastic.

B. I might/shall go to the party.



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Using Modal Verbs

5a. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. You must see the new art exhibition, it's fascinating!

B. If you practice extremely hard, you may win the competition.



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Using Modal Verbs

5b. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. That poor dog ought to go to the vets!

B. We used to go to swimming every weekend in the morning.



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6a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

will

possibility

could

probable

ought to

certainty



VF

6b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

shall

possibility

might

probable

would

certainty



VF

7a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

The hotel _____ have been nicer if it had been redecorated.

should

may

can



VF

7b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show certainty.

The policeman _____ give us the correct directions.

should

could

will



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8a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences most certain.

A. The weather forecaster said that it may/will be stormy tomorrow.

B. My teacher said that we might/will go on a trip on Friday.



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8b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences less certain.

A. You really must/ought to do your homework as soon as you get it.

B. The football match will/might be cancelled due to the weather.



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Using Modal Verbs

9a. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. Thirty balloons ought to be enough, but fifty would be better.

B. You had better answer the phone, it may be important.



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Using Modal Verbs

9b. Underline the modal verbs in the sentences below.

A. You should not go that way, you might get lost.

B. The team need to row harder or they could lose the competition.



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10a. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

shall

lack of ability

cannot

obligation

should

determination



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10b. Match the modal verb to its meaning.

need not

lack of permission

ought to

advice

may not

no obligation



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11a. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show ability.

You should have asked earlier I _____ have shown you how to do it properly.

might

could

would



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11b. Fill in the blank in the sentence below with a modal verb to show possibility.

If you _____ take the risk, you might find the experience exhilarating.

need to

can

dare to



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12a. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences less certain.

A. The forest fire will not/should not reach the town if the firebreak is created in time.

B. The teacher told Year 5 that they will not/might not be taking part in a football competition on Thursday.



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12b. Circle the modal verb that would make the sentences more obligatory.

A. The key speaker had better/ought to be here before the delegates arrive for the conference.

B. My brother must/ought to decide which university he is going to before the places fill up.



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Varied Fluency Using Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1a. **may**
- 2a. **must: certainty; might: possibility**
- 3a. **could**
- 4a. **A: should; B: might**

Expected

- 5a. **A: must; B: may**
- 6a. **will: certainty; could: possibility; ought to: probable**
- 7a. **may**
- 8a. **A: will, B: will**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **A: ought to, would; B: had better, may**
- 10a. **shall: determination; should: obligation; cannot: lack of ability**
- 11a. **could**
- 12a. **A: should not; B: might not**

Varied Fluency Using Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1b. **could**
- 2b. **may: possibility; will: certainty**
- 3b. **must**
- 4b. **A: will; B: shall**

Expected

- 5b. **A: ought to; B: used to**
- 6b. **shall: certainty; might: possibility; would: probable**
- 7b. **will**
- 8b. **A: ought to, B: might**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **A: should not, might; B: need to, could**
- 10b. **need not: no obligation; ought to: advice; may not: lack of permission**
- 11b. **dare to**
- 12b. **A: had better; B: must**