

English Grammar

Modal Verbs

Modal	Example	Uses
Can	They can control their own budgets.	Ability / Possibility
	We can't fix it.	Inability / Impossibility
	Can I smoke here?	Asking for permission
	Can you help me?	Request
Could	Could I borrow your dictionary?	Asking for permission.
	Could you say it again more slowly?	Request
	We could try to fix it ourselves.	Suggestion
	I think we could have another Gulf War.	Future possibility
	He gave up his old job so he could work for us.	Ability in the past
May	May I have another cup of coffee?	Asking for permission
	China may become a major economic power.	Future possibility
Might	We'd better phone tomorrow, they might be eating their dinner now.	Present possibility
	They might give us a 10% discount.	Future possibility
Must	We must say good-bye now.	Necessity / Obligation
	They mustn't disrupt the work more than necessary.	Prohibition
Ought to	We ought to employ a professional writer.	Saying what's right or correct
Shall (More common in the UK than the US)	Shall I help you with your luggage?	Offer
	Shall we say 2.30 then?	Suggestion
	Shall I do that or will you?	Asking what to do
Should	We should sort out this problem at once.	Saying what's right or

	I think we should check everything again. Profits should increase next year.	correct Recommending action Uncertain prediction
Will	I can't see any taxis so I'll walk. I'll do that for you if you like. I'll get back to you first thing on Monday. Profits will increase next year.	Instant decisions Offer Promise Certain prediction
Would	Would you mind if I brought a colleague with me? Would you pass the salt please? Would you mind waiting a moment? "Would three o'clock suit you?" - "That'd be fine." Would you like to play golf this Friday? "Would you prefer tea or coffee?" - "I'd like tea please."	

1. Ted's flight from Amsterdam took more than 11 hours. He be exhausted after such a long flight.
2. The book is optional. My professor said we could read it if we needed extra credit. But we read it if we don't want to.
3. Susan hear the speaker because the crowd was cheering so loudly.
4. The television isn't working. It damaged during the move.
5. Kate: hold your breath for more than a minute?
Jack: No, I can't.
6. You be rich to be a success. Some of the most successful people I know haven't got a penny to their name.

7. I've redone this math problem at least twenty times, but my answer is wrong according to the answer key. The answer in the book be wrong!

8. You do the job if you didn't speak Japanese fluently.

9. You worry so much. It doesn't do you any good. Either you get the job, or you don't. If you don't, just apply for another one. Eventually, you will find work.

10. You be kidding! That can't be true.

11. You leave the table once you have finished your meal and politely excused yourself.

12. Jenny's engagement ring is enormous! It a fortune.

13. we move into the living room? It's more comfortable in there and there's a beautiful view of the lake.

14. If I had gone white water rafting with my friends, I down the Colorado River right now.

15. At first, my boss didn't want to hire Sam. But, because I had previously worked with Sam, I told my boss that he take another look at his resume and reconsider him for the position.

16. You take along some cash. The restaurant may not accept credit cards.

17. The machine on by flipping this switch.

18. I can't stand these people - I get out of here. I'm going to take off for awhile while you get rid of them.

19. You forget to pay the rent tomorrow. The landlord is very strict about paying on time.

20. Do you always have to say the first thing that pops into your head.
 you think once in a while before you speak?

21. Terry and Frank said they would come over right after work, so they be here by 6:00.

22. Yesterday, I cram all day for my French final. I didn't get to sleep until after midnight.

23. We no longer suffer the injustice of oppression! Freedom shall be ours!

24. If I had gone to the University of Miami, I participated in their Spanish immersion program.

25. The lamp be broken. Maybe the light bulb just burned out.

Check

OK

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