

MODALS: Modals are auxiliary verbs that change the meaning of the main verb. Read the examples below

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| I pay my taxes. | General declaration of fact. Paying taxes is something I normally do. |
| I can pay my taxes. | Expresses ability. I have the means (funds) to pay. |
| I might pay my taxes. | Expresses possibility, but not certainty. Maybe I will pay; maybe I won't. |
| I will pay my taxes. | Expresses future intent. I resolve to do it at some later time. |
| I should pay my taxes | Expresses mild obligation. It is required, and I expect to comply. |
| I could pay my taxes. | Expresses possibility. If I have nothing else to do with the money, I might pay taxes. |
| I would pay my taxes. | (In this case), expresses reservation. If I had the money (but I don't). . . |
| I must pay my taxes | Expresses strong obligation. I am required and have to comply. |

Common Problems with Modals

1. Using "to" unnecessarily:

NOT He should to eat his dinner. BUT He should eat his dinner.

NOT I had better to go now. BUT I had better go now.

NOT You must not to use that pencil. BUT You must not use that pencil.

2. Using anything but the base form after a modal:

NOT John could heard the bell. BUT John could hear the bell.

NOT Penny will going to the movie. BUT Penny will go to the movie.

3. Using double modals:

NOT You should ought to speak English. BUT You ought to speak English. / should speak

NOT She might can help me. BUT She might be able to help me.

5. Using wrong word order in questions:

NOT How I can help you? BUT How can I help you?

NOT Where I should go for the meeting? BUT Where should I go for the meeting?

Modals Exercise: Write sentences using the following modals, then read them to the class.

might: _____
may: _____
could: _____
can: _____
must: _____

Pronunciation:

When a syllable in a word is unstressed, we do not give that syllable the full vowel sound. For example, in the word “consider”, “con” is not the stressed syllable. So we don’t say “con” as in “con-man”, but “cun”. We use the “uh” sound in these words.

(Teachers: pronounce these words with equal stress on each syllable, then pronounce them correctly while the students listen.) prefer problem pilot

Notice how the sound of the vowel changes in the unstressed syllables.

land England
men system
men problem
man postman
hill nostril
land inland
story history
fort effort
valid validity
object objective

Notice in all these words, the vowels in the syllables are the same, but they are pronounced totally different. Practice saying these words: present, doctor, banana, level, theatre, difficult, Japan, Sweden, Finland, Jordan.

Mark the stressed syllable in these words and pronounce them correctly.

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|--------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| easily | definite | factory | familiar | generous | heaven |
| animal | butter | register | combine | command | innocent |
| memory | memorial | conclude | dessert | confident | confide |