

Understand Modal Auxiliaries

Modal auxiliaries are helping verbs that work together with main verbs. **Can, could, may, might, must, should, and will** are modal auxiliaries.

Modal Auxiliary	Purpose	Examples
can, could, may, might	tell about whether something is possible	George can play tennis. George could play tennis. George may play tennis. George might play tennis.
must, should, will	tell about whether something is necessary	Kim must eat breakfast. Kim should eat breakfast. Kim will eat breakfast.

Circle the modal auxiliary in each sentence. Write *possible* or *necessary* to tell what the modal auxiliary indicates.

1. Getting a car might change someone’s life. _____
2. Car owners can get jobs in other cities. _____
3. They should get regular oil changes for their cars. _____
4. Regular oil changes will keep their cars running smoothly. _____
5. Drivers must follow all driving rules on the road. _____
6. Drivers who don’t follow the speed limit may receive a ticket. _____

Circle the modal auxiliary and underline the main verb in each sentence. Then explain how the modal auxiliary affects the meaning of the sentence.

7. Devin might watch a movie this weekend.

8. Yara must finish her social studies report before Friday.

Understand Modal Auxiliaries

Modal auxiliaries are helping verbs that work together with main verbs. **Can, could, may, might, must, should, will,** and **would** are modal auxiliaries.

Can, could, may, and **might** tell whether something is possible.

The students **can** write with blue or black pens.

Julia **might** describe her trip to Florida.

Must, should, and **will** tell whether something is necessary.

Students **should** use their dictionaries.

They **must** include sensory details in their descriptions.

Circle the modal auxiliary and underline the main verb in each sentence.

Write *possible* or *necessary* to tell what the modal auxiliary indicates.

1. Mia can spell more words correctly than anyone else. _____
2. She will compete in the school spelling bee. _____
3. Mia must practice before the contest. _____
4. She might win first prize. _____
5. The principal could give her a blue ribbon if she wins. _____
6. Our class should cheer for her during the contest. _____

Write sentences that include a modal auxiliary. Use one modal auxiliary that indicates something is possible and one that indicates something is necessary.

7. _____

8. _____
