GRAMMAR

# Modal verbs

Name _____ Date _____

I can use can, may, must and should to show what is possible or needed.

## 1 The rule

A modal verb is a helping verb that shows whether something is possible, allowed or needed: can, could, may, might, must, should, will and would.

It **might** rain, so you **should** take an umbrella.

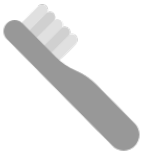
## 2 Look and say



**can**
I can ride a bike.



**may**
May I go outside?



**must**
You must brush.



**should**
You should take it.



**could**
We could climb it.



**might**
It might rain.



**will**
I will call you.



**would**
Would you like one?

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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# Sort the words

Name _____ Date _____

**Is it possible, is it needed, or is someone able to do it? Sort each phrase.**

## 1 Word bank

can swim | can whistle | can read | may snow | should rest | must stop | could win | might rain | must listen

| possible | needed | able to |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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GRAMMAR · MODAL VERBS

# Find it in a sentence

Name _____ Date _____

**Read each sentence. Circle the modal verb.**

1. You must wear a helmet.
2. It might snow tonight.
3. May I borrow a pencil?
4. We should drink water.
5. I can tie my shoes.
6. Could you help me?
7. She will call later.
8. Would you like some tea?

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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# Write it

Name _____ Date _____

Pick a modal verb from the box to finish each sentence.

## 1 Word bank

can | must | might | should | may | will

1. Fish _____ swim.
2. Cars _____ stop at a red light.
3. Take a coat. It _____ get cold.
4. You _____ say thank you.
5. _____ I sit here, please?
6. I _____ see you tomorrow.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

# Answer key: modal verbs

## 1 Sort the words

possible: might rain, may snow, could win

needed: must stop, should rest, must listen

able to: can swim, can read, can whistle

## 2 Find it in a sentence

1. must 2. might 3. May 4. should 5. can 6. Could 7. will 8. Would

## 3 Write it

1. can 2. must 3. might 4. should 5. May 6. will

## 4 Teaching tip

Hold up a picture of dark clouds and ask, "What might happen? What should we do?" Children hear how the modal changes the meaning from maybe to need to.

**Watch for: Adding -s to a modal or changing the verb after it, as in "She cans swim" or "He must goes." Modals never change, and the verb after them stays plain: she can swim.**



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