

Application and Reasoning

Step 2: Modal Verbs

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (5G4.1c) [Using modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility](#)

English Year 6: (5G4.1c) [Indicating degrees of possibility using modal verbs \[for example, might, should, will, must\]](#)

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Application)

Developing Sort four sentences containing modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability.

Expected Sort five sentences containing modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability.

Greater Depth Create and sort own sentences containing given modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain reasons for placing three modal verbs on a scale based on strength of meaning. Modal verbs used have clear difference in strength of meaning.

Expected Explain reasons for placing four modal verbs on a scale based on strength of meaning. Modal verbs used have unclear different in strength of meaning.

Greater Depth Explain reasons for placing five modal, including those in the negative, on a scale based on strength of meaning. Modal verbs used have unclear different in strength of meaning.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Application)

Developing Choose an appropriate modal verb to complete two sentences. Word bank provided.

Expected Choose appropriate modal verbs to complete two sentences with two missing modal verbs in each.

Greater Depth Choose appropriate modal verbs, including those in the negative, to complete two sentences with two missing modal verbs in each.

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Modal Verbs

Modal Verbs

1a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- A. I will carry that box for you.
- B. We might win the lottery.
- C. I shall have a bath today.
- D. It may hurt.



A

1b. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

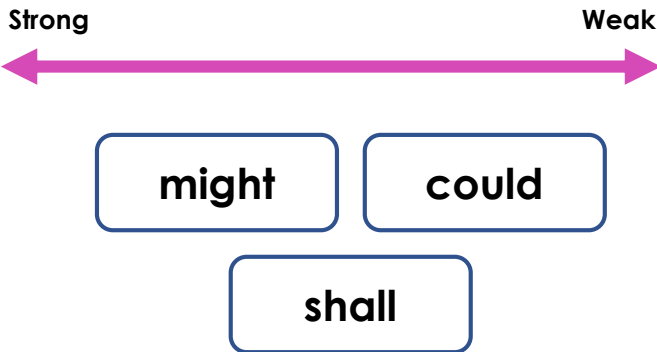
Modal verb suggests obligation (no choice)	Modal verb suggests ability (choice)

- A. I have to ride my horse.
- B. I should read my book.
- C. I must have a bath today.
- D. I could do it.



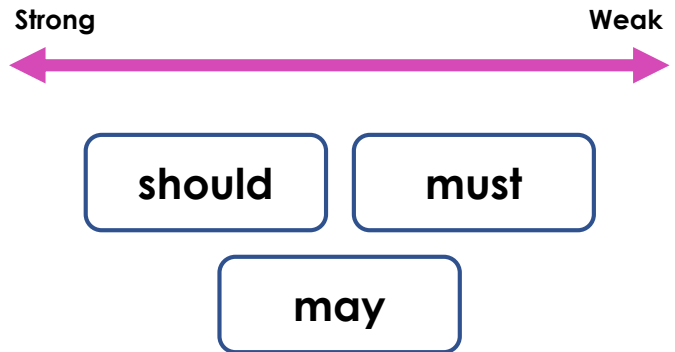
A

2a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

2b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

3a. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below.

I (might/will/must) make new friends next year.

I (will/could/must) fly on a plane next year.



A

3b. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below.

I (might/will/could) travel to America.

I (shall/should/might) be going to the cinema soon.



A

Modal Verbs

Modal Verbs

4a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- A. It will rain tomorrow.
- B. She might have missed her bus.
- C. I said I would.
- D. I shall brush my teeth tonight.
- E. I may reach my target soon.



A

4b. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

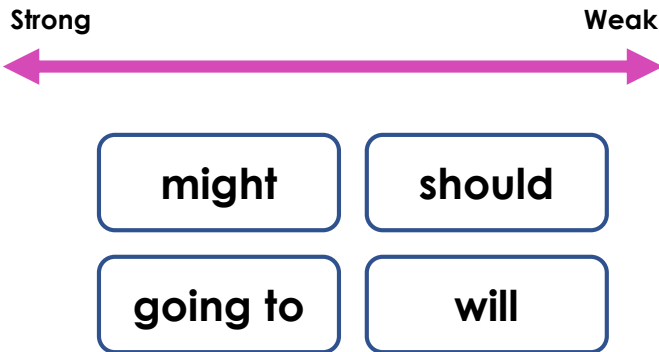
Modal verb suggests obligation (no choice)	Modal verb suggests ability (choice)

- A. We should ask mum.
- B. I ought to tidy my room first.
- C. I must take the dog for a walk.
- D. I could go to the shops for you.
- E. We must go to the zoo today.



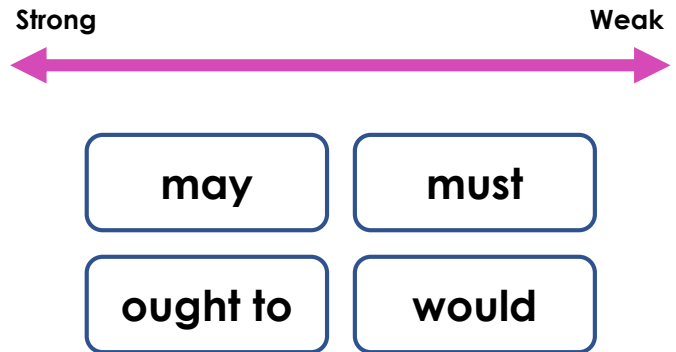
A

5a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

5b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

6a. Choose appropriate modal verbs to complete the sentences below.

I _____ become a celebrity one day and then I _____ buy a mansion.

I _____ wash my hair tomorrow so that it _____ look immaculate for the disco.



A

6b. Choose appropriate modal verbs to complete the sentences below.

I _____ become a paramedic so I _____ need to learn to drive.

It _____ be very hot at the weekend so we _____ have a barbecue.



A

Modal Verbs

Modal Verbs

7a. Write your own sentences to place on the table using the modal verbs below.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- A. might
- B. will
- C. would
- D. shall



A

7b. Write your own sentences to place on the table using the modal verbs below.

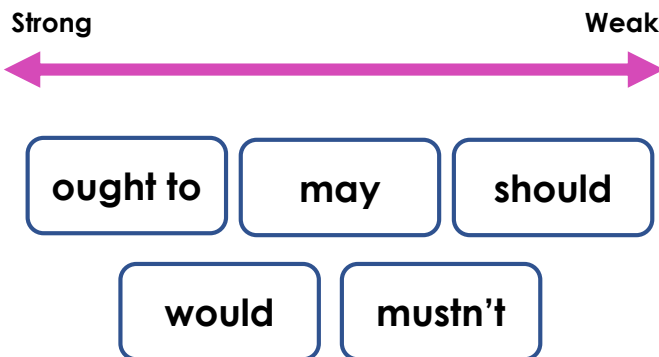
Modal verb suggests obligation (no choice)	Modal verb suggests ability (choice)

- A. could
- B. can
- C. ought
- D. must



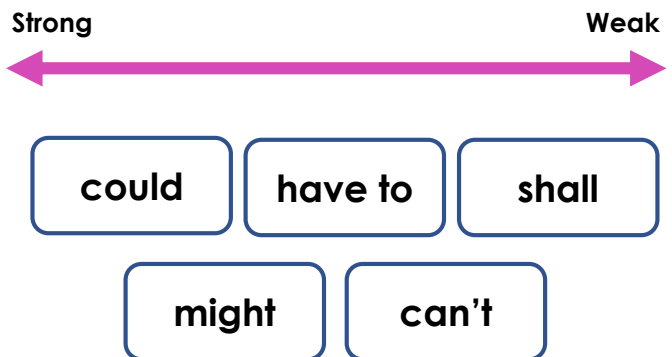
A

8a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

8b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.



R

9a. Choose appropriate modal verbs, including negatives, to complete the sentences below.

Nelly _____ play rugby but he _____ come and watch to see his friends play.

Later, even though I _____, I am _____ eat a chocolate bar all to myself.



A

9b. Choose appropriate modal verbs, including negatives, to complete the sentences below.

I _____ go to gym today, but I _____ go tomorrow and do my favourite exercises.

It _____ be raining this weekend, but that _____ stop us from going to the beach.



A

Application and Reasoning Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1a. Certainty: A & C; Possibility: B & D
2a. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: shall, could, might – ‘shall’ is used to show determination; ‘could’ is used to show possibility; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.
3a. Various answers, for example: I will make new friends next year.
I could fly on a plane next year.

Expected

- 4a. Certainty: A, C & D; Possibility: B & E
5a. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: will, going to, should, might – ‘will’ is used to show determination; ‘going to’ is used to show strong possibility; ‘should’ is used to show obligation; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.
6a. Various answers, for example: I may become a celebrity one day and then I could buy a mansion.
I should wash my hair tomorrow so that it will look immaculate for the disco.

Greater Depth

- 7a. Certainty: B & D; Possibility: A & C
8a. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: mustn’t, should, ought to, may, would – ‘mustn’t’ is used to show strong obligation; ‘should’ is used to express obligation; ‘ought to’ is used to express a sense of obligation; ‘may’ is used to ask permission or show a possibility; ‘would’ is used express a polite question.
9a. Various answers, for example: Nelly can’t play rugby but he may come and watch to see his friends play.
Later, even though I shouldn’t, I am going to eat a chocolate bar all to myself.

Application and Reasoning Modal Verbs

Developing

- 1b. Obligation: A & C; Ability: B & D
2b. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: must, should, may – ‘must’ is used to show a strong obligation; ‘should’ is used to show obligation; ‘may’ is used to express a possibility.
3b. Various answers, for example: I might travel to America.
I should be going to the cinema soon.

Expected

- 4b. Obligation: C & E; Ability: A, B & D
5b. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: must, ought to, may, would – ‘must’ is used to show strong obligation; ‘ought to’ is used to show a sense of obligation; ‘may’ is used to ask permission or show a possibility; ‘would’ is used to express a polite question.
6b. Various answers, for example: I might become a paramedic so I will need to learn to drive.
It might be very hot at the weekend so we shall have a barbecue.

Greater Depth

- 7b. Obligation: D; Ability: A, B & C
8b. Various answers but must be justified.
For example: have to, shall, can’t, could, might – ‘have to’ is used to show strong determination; ‘shall’ is used to show determination; ‘can’t’ is used to express an ability to not be able to do something; ‘could’ is used to show a possibility and ability; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.
9b. Various answers, for example: I won’t go to the gym today but I may go tomorrow and do my favourite exercises.
It could be raining this weekend, but that won’t stop us from going to the beach.