

Modal Verbs

What are Modal Verbs ?

Modal Verbs are special verbs which behave very differently from normal verbs.

Here are some important differences.

1. Modal verbs do not take “-s” in the third person

Example:

- He **can** speak Chinese.
- She **should** be here by 9:00.

2. You use “**not**” to make modal verbs negative, even in Simple Present and Simple Past.

Example :

- He **should not** be late.
- They **might not** come to the party.

3. Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tense or the future tenses.

Example:

- He **will can** go with us. **Not correct**
- She **Musted** study very hard. **Not correct**

Common Modal Verbs

Can Could

May might Must

Ought to

Shell Should

Will Would

For the purposes of this tutorial, we have included some expressions which are not modal verbs including **had better, have to, and have got to** . These expressions are closely related to modals in meaning and are often interchanged with them.