

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verb. This means they are always used with a main verb to add meaning; they cannot stand alone as the main verb in a sentence. English has several modal verbs, including can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, and should. In this lesson, we'll focus on four commonly used ones: will, would, shall, and should. You'll learn how they work, when to use them, and how their meanings can change depending on context.

Will

To show desire, preference, choice or consent:

I will accept your offer.

Will you please be quiet?

To show the future:

It will be a great party.

I will probably go out tonight.

To express capability:

The ship will take three hundred guests.

This bottle will hold two litres of wine.

To express determination or insistence:

I will pass my driving test.

I will do as you say.

Would

To show preference:

I would rather go to the cinema today.

I would prefer to stay in this weekend.

To express a wish/desire:

I would like to have more free time.

To offer advice:

If I were you, I would study economics.

Shall

To make a suggestion:

Shall we dance?

Shall I go now?

Shall for obligation in very formal situations:

You shall obey the rules.

Students shall not enter here.

There shall be no food and drink on the premises.

Should

To give an opinion or a suggestion:

You should stay at home if you are feeling tired.

He should make more compromises.

To express a preference or an idea:

I should walk to work more often.

We should go swimming on Saturday.

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