

## MODALS

Modals are those helping verbs, which express the 'mode' or 'manner' of the actions indicated by the main verbs. They express modes such as ability, possibility, probability, permission, obligation, etc.

The most commonly used modals are shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, used to, need and dare.

**Modals** are used to:

### 1. Ask permission—may, can, could

Examples: May I come in?

Could I use your pen, please?

### 2. Make a request—can, could

Examples: Could you please give me the doctor's telephone number?

Can I borrow a pencil?

### 3. Express a possibility—may, might, could

Examples: It might rain during the night.

She could become a great singer some day.

### 4. Give advice or a suggestion—should

Examples: You should exercise more.

You shouldn't smoke.

### 5. Express necessity—must, have to

Examples: We must slow down while driving in front of a school.

I have to submit my project by tomorrow.

### 6. Express prohibition – must not, may not

Examples: You must not talk loudly in the library.

You may not be rude to the teacher.

**7. Express a promise or intention—will, shall**

Example: I will mail you my address.

**8. Express a wish—may**

Example: May you have a long life!

Instructions for group work:

1. Write the names of the students in your group on the paper
2. Working as a group, write examples of each corresponding usage next to the number on your group handout.
3. Show your paper to the teacher for revision.
4. Re-write the revised sentences on the large paper.

## Modals – Group Handout

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### Modal Sentences

1. Ask permission

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Make a request

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Express a possibility

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give advice or a suggestion.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Express necessity

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Express prohibition

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Express a promise or intention

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Express a wish

\_\_\_\_\_



I should practice  
modals more often.