

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are auxiliary ('helper') verbs that show **degrees of possibility** - in other words, how likely or unlikely something is to happen. They can also show **ability, permission, advice, obligation, intention** and **requests**.

Adverbs can be used in the same way as modal verbs to express possibility.

I **should** tidy my room tonight, but I **might** go to the park instead.

modal verb

main verb

modal verb

Maybe I'll tidy it tomorrow.

adverb

Challenge 1:

Underline the **main verbs** in the sentences below. Then circle the **modal verbs** in **green** and any **adverbs** that **show possibility** in **purple**.

Example: I **could** bake the cake now but **surely** she **can** make it later.

1. This car can travel at speeds of 120 miles per hour.
2. You must go to see the headteacher - you are certainly in trouble.
3. I will probably watch that film, but I might be too tired.
4. You mustn't drop litter as it could kill wild animals.
5. Perhaps I shall go to the beach this weekend.
6. He may ask her for a favour,
but she will definitely say no.



Modal Verbs

Challenge 2:

Add in suitable **modal verbs** to the following sentences.

1. I be quiet for any longer - I explode!
2. He behave like that - he get into trouble.
3. I know I help move the boxes, but I find the energy.
4. Athletes train for hours a day.
5. I go to the swimming pool or I go to a theme park.
6. We have a milkshake because we wait for my sister.

Challenge 3:

Write a paragraph about your plans for the weekend. Circle all your **modal verbs** in **green** and any **adverbs** you use to show possibility in **purple**. Think about what you are certain you will do, and what you could potentially do!

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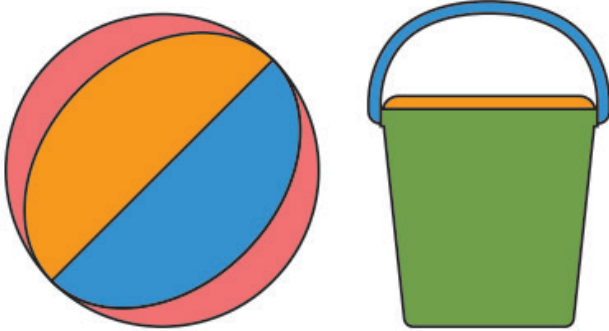
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Modal Verbs

Answers

Modal verbs are auxiliary ('helper') verbs that show **degrees of possibility** - in other words, how likely or unlikely something is to happen. They can also show **ability, permission, advice, obligation, intention** and **requests**.

Adverbs can be used in the same way as modal verbs to express possibility.

I **should** tidy my room tonight, but I **might** go to the park instead.

modal verb

main verb

modal verb

Maybe I'll tidy it tomorrow.

adverb

Challenge 1:

Underline the **main verbs** in the sentences below. Then circle the **modal verbs** in **green** and any **adverbs** that **show possibility** in **purple**.

Example: I **could** bake the cake now but **surely** she **can** make it later.

1. This car **can** travel at speeds of 120 miles per hour.
2. You **must** go to see the headteacher - you **are** **certainly** in trouble.
3. I **will** **probably** watch that film, but I **might** **be** too tired.
4. You **mustn't** drop litter as it **could** kill wild animals.
5. **Perhaps** I **shall** go to the beach this weekend.
6. He **may** ask her for a favour,
but she **will** **definitely** say no.



Modal Verbs

Answers

Challenge 2:

Add in suitable **modal verbs** to the following sentences.

Answers may vary. Here are some suggested answers:

1. I **can't** be quiet for any longer - I **might** explode!
2. He **shouldn't** behave like that - he **will** get into trouble.
3. I know I **should** help move the boxes, but I **can't** find the energy.
4. Athletes **must** train for hours a day.
5. I **could** go to the swimming pool or I **could** go to a theme park.
6. We **can't** have a milkshake because we **must** wait for my sister.

Challenge 3:

Write a paragraph about your plans for the weekend. Circle all your **modal verbs** in **green** and any **adverbs** you use to show possibility in **purple**. Think about what you are certain you will do, and what you could potentially do!

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