

Years 5 and 6: Modal Verbs and Adverbs of Possibility

Learning From Home Activity Booklet

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Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are used with other verbs to describe how likely something is to happen or to show how certain we are of something happening. For example:

One day the girl **might** be Queen.

The word 'might' is the modal verb. It indicates that the girl might be the Queen but it isn't definitely going to happen. Below is a list of modal verbs. Write the modal verbs onto the line below according to how strongly they suggest an event might happen.

Definite event ↑

↓ Possible event

Modal Verbs
may
ought to
could
should
must
will
would
might
can

Max Modal

Max Modal is struggling with his homework. He must identify which of the sentences below contain a modal verb. Help Max by ticking the sentences that contain a **modal verb**.



1. I like chocolate because it tastes nice. ☐
2. My mum said we might go on holiday at half term. ☐
3. The plane flew through the sky. ☐
4. You must finish your work before break. ☐
5. The special visitor will arrive later today. ☐
6. After dinner, I finished my homework. ☐

Now help Max by underlining the modal verb in each sentence below:

1. If she entered the competition, Nicole might win a prize.
2. It would have been great if we won the football match.
3. We will complete the activity if we work together.
4. Lexi's mum said that she should always try her best at school.
5. "Yes you may go to the toilet," the teacher said.
6. Dad thought that he ought to wash the car before going to grandma's house.
7. We could go to the zoo at the weekend or go bowling.

Negative Modals

Modal verbs can also be changed to their negative form. For example, **should** can be replaced with **should not**. Also, many negative modal verbs can be contracted, for example **should not** becomes **shouldn't** in its contracted form.

Complete the blanks in the table below to show **modal verbs** and their negative forms (including contractions). The first one has been done for you.

modal verb	negative form	contraction of negative Form
should	should not	shouldn't
	cannot	
		couldn't
		mayn't
	might not	
		won't
	would not	
must		
		shouldn't
ought to		



Hint: If you get stuck, use the Internet to help you search for modal verbs and their negatives.

Negative Nancy

Nancy is a contrary young girl. She likes to say the opposite of what other people say to her. Below is a list of sentences that Nancy has heard during the day. Please write her reply by changing the modal verb in each sentence to its negative form. For example:

Hattie **can** do a handstand. (positive sentence)

Hattie **can't** do a handstand. (negative sentence)



1. Ffion can do column addition.

2. Connor could swim a full length of the pool.

3. It might rain later this evening.

4. You may go to the ball at the palace.

5. I will take more care next time.

6. Hristo would like to read a story after lunch.

7. We must get closer to see.

8. You should finish it before break time.

Modal Sentences

Choose one of the modal verbs to help you to complete each of these sentences. You can only use each modal verb once so tick each one as you have used it.

shouldn't	can	couldn't
would	ought	may
might	would	must

1. Neeta _____ tidy her bedroom before she can go out to play.
2. Paul was so tired that he _____ keep his eyes open.
3. You _____ eat too many sweets as it's bad for your teeth.
4. I _____ like to be an astronaut when I am older.
5. After you have finished all your food, you _____ leave the table.
6. I _____ say my three times table confidently.
7. I _____ like to travel the world in the future.
8. Ask Harriet - she _____ know the right answer.
9. I don't want to go but I _____ to.

Challenge: Using some of the modal verbs on the previous page, write three of your own sentences with modal verbs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Adverbs of Possibility

In addition to modal verbs, some adverbs can be used to describe how likely it is that something will happen. These are called 'adverbs of possibility'. Some of the most common adverbs of possibility are:

certainly	definitely	maybe	possibly
clearly	obviously	perhaps	probably

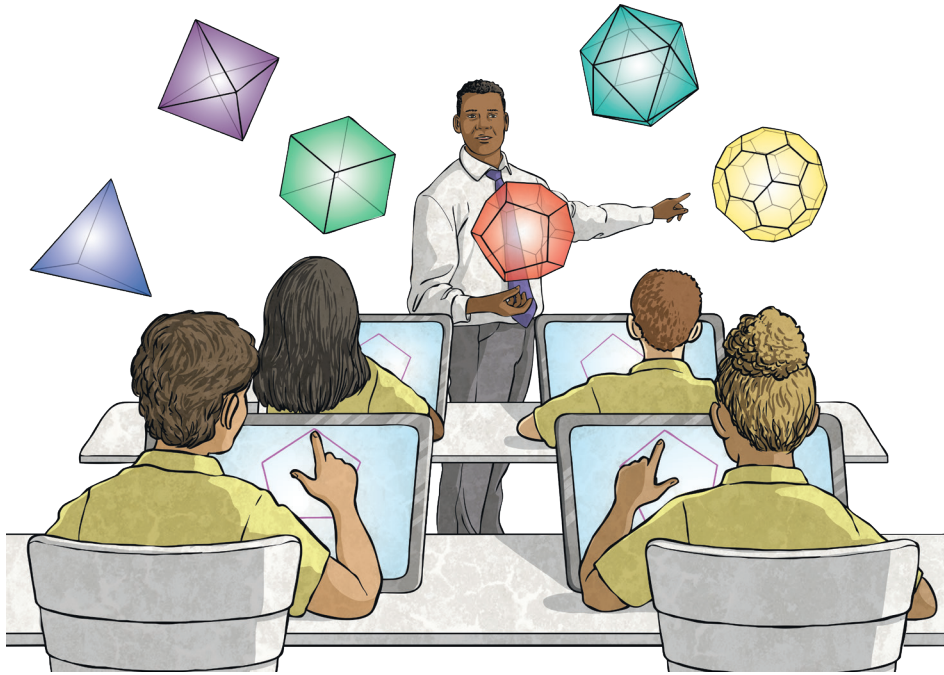
Use each word to write a sentence showing how it can be used. For example:

He is **definitely** coming to the party.

Maybe I'll win the lottery this week.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

A Class in 2099

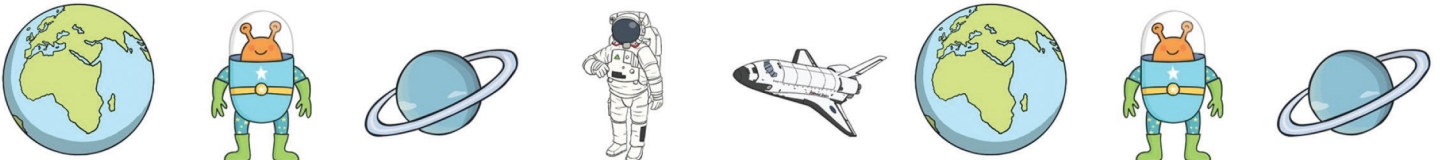
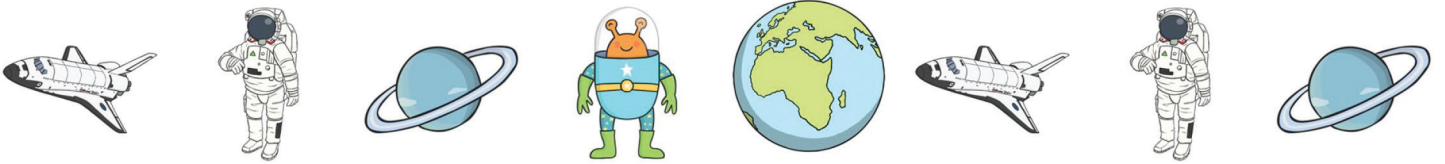


Imagine what school will be like in the year 2099. Write a description of your ideas for a future school using **modal verbs** and **adverbs of possibility** to explain what the school might be like. Use the following questions to help you think about what to write:

- How will children in the future get to school?
- What lessons will they study?
- How many will be in each class?
- What will they do at break and lunch times?
- What will they eat?
- What will they do their work on? Tablets, laptops or something else?
- Who will teach the children of the future? A person, a robot or even an alien?

Use these modal verbs and adverbs of possibility to help you. Underline them in your writing.

modal verbs	can, could, should, must, ought, may, would, might, will.
adverbs of possibility	certainly, definitely, obviously, sometimes, probably, maybe, perhaps, never, rarely.



A Parent's Guide to Terminology

In Years 5 and 6, your child will be taught to use modal verbs and adverbs of possibility in their independent writing. They will also be expected to identify modal verbs in sentences and add them to sentences for the English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test that is sat at the end of Year 6. The activities in this booklet will help your child identify and use modal verbs and adverbs of possibility when writing.

Terminology	Explanation
modal verb	<p>Modal verbs are sometimes also known as auxiliary verbs. They are used with other verbs to describe how likely things are to happen or to what degree of something is known. Modal verbs include: can, could, may, might, will, would, must, should, ought to. For example:</p> <p>The princess might marry a prince.</p>
adverbs of possibility	<p>Adverbs of possibility work in the same way as modal verbs – they give information about how likely something is. Adverbs for possibility include: certainly, definitely, maybe, surely, clearly, obviously, perhaps, probably and undoubtedly. For example:</p> <p>The sky went very dark so obviously it was going to rain.</p>

Years 5 and 6: Modal Verbs and Adverbs of Possibility Answers

2. Modal verbs

Top 3 (any order) – will, can, must.

Middle 3 (any order) – would, should, ought to.

Bottom 3 (any order) – could, may, might.

3. Max Modal

1. I like chocolate because it tastes nice.
2. My mum said we might go on holiday at half term. **Correct**
3. The plane flew through the sky.
4. You must finish your work before break. **Correct**
5. The special visitor will arrive later today. **Correct**
6. After dinner, I finished my homework.

1. If she entered the competition, Nicole **might** win a prize.
2. It **would** have been great if we won the football match.
3. We **will** complete the activity if we work together.
4. Lexi's mum said that she **should** always try her best at school.
5. "Yes you **may** go to the toilet," the teacher said.
6. Dad thought that he **ought to** wash the car before going to grandma's house.
7. We **could** go to the zoo at the weekend or go bowling.

Years 5 and 6: Modal Verbs and Adverbs of Possibility Answers

4. Negative Models

modal verb	negative form	contraction of negative Form
should	should not	shouldn't
can	cannot	can't
could	could not	couldn't
may	may not	mayn't
might	might not	mightn't
will	will not	won't
would	would not	wouldn't
must	must not	mustn't
should	should not	shouldn't
ought to	ought not	oughtn't

5. Negative Nancy

1. Ffion can do column addition.

Ffion cannot/ can't do column addition.

2. Connor could swim a full length of the pool.

Connor could not/couldn't swim a full length of the pool.

3. It might rain later this evening.

It might not/mightn't rain later this evening.

4. You may go to the ball at the palace.

You may not/ mayn't go to the ball at the palace.

5. I will take more care next time.

I will not/won't take more care next time.

6. Hristo would like to read a story after lunch.

Hristo would not/wouldn't like to read a story after lunch.

7. We must get closer to see.

We must not/mustn't get closer to see.

8. You should finish it before break time.

You should not/shouldn't finish it before break.

Years 5 and 6: Modal Verbs and Adverbs of Possibility Answers

6. Modal Sentences

1. Neeta **must** tidy her bedroom before she can go out to play.
2. Paul was so tired that he **couldn't** keep his eyes open.
3. You **shouldn't** eat too many sweets as it's bad for your teeth.
4. I **would** like to be an astronaut when I am older.
5. After you have finished all your food, you **may** leave the table.
6. I **can** say my three times table confidently.
7. I **would** like to travel the world in the future.
8. Ask Harriet – she **might** know the right answer.
9. I don't want to go but I **ought** to.

Challenge: Accept three sensible sentences where different modal verbs are used.

7. Adverbs of Possibility

Accept eight sensible sentences that use the eight different adverbs of possibility.

8–9. Class of 2099

Please accept any description that is grammatically correct and has included underlined modal verbs and adverbs of possibility.