

Modal Verbs

1. Sort the words below into verbs and modal verbs.

verbs	modal verbs

may call would
 should could drive
 jump listen ought to

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4. Arnold wants his sentence to show that he is able to play the piano now that he has had lessons.

	I might play the piano because I
	have had some lessons.

Has Arnold chosen the correct modal verb to convey this?
 Explain your answer.

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2. Underline the modal verbs used in each of the sentences below.

- A. It will be sunny today.
- B. We must remember to put the bins out for collection.
- C. I would buy a new car if I could afford to.
- D. I cannot seem to find where I put my new shoes!
- E. We might go for a walk later.

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5. Rewrite the sentences below to make them a possibility.

A. We will go for a run tomorrow.

B. I shan't go shopping on Saturday.

Rewrite the sentences below to make them a certainty.

C. I could cook for us today.

D. You may have to wait an hour.

A

3. Complete the sentences below by choosing an appropriate modal verb.

- A. It _____ be sunny so we need to put sun cream on. (possibility)
- B. Ahmed _____ do a back flip when he was younger but no longer can. (ability)
- C. The class trip _____ not happen if the behaviour of the children does not improve. (certainty)

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6. How would changing the modal verb 'should' to 'ought to' alter the meaning of the sentence below?

I should tidy my bedroom because my mum has asked me to.

How would changing the modal verb 'won't' to 'could' alter the meaning of the sentence below?

Daniel won't be getting a new bike for his birthday.

A

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verbs	modal verbs
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2. A. It will be sunny today.

B. We must remember to put the bins out for collection.

C. I would buy a new car if I could afford to.

D. I cannot seem to find where I put my new shoes!

E. We might go for a walk later.

3. A. might, may or could; B. could; C. will

4. Arnold is incorrect because he has used the modal verb 'might' which shows possibility and not ability. The correct modal verb should be 'can' which shows ability.

5. Various answers, for example:

A. We might go for a run tomorrow.

B. I could go shopping on Saturday.

C. I will cook for us today.

D. You must wait for an hour.

6. If 'should' was changed to 'ought to', the meaning of the sentence would not be altered because they both show obligation.

If 'won't' was changed to 'could', the meaning of the sentence is changed. When 'won't' is used, it is certain that Daniel will not be getting a new bike, but when this is changed to 'could', it becomes a possibility.