

# Grammar **Auxiliary Verbs: Modal Verbs**

An **auxiliary verb** is a verb which helps to modify the sense of another verb. There are three main auxiliary verbs: **to do**, **to have** and **to be**.

There are also auxiliary verbs known as **modal verbs**. These are used to express **possibility** or **necessity**. The modal verbs are:

can	may	must
shall	will	could
might	should	would

Look at how the addition of a modal verb changes the sense of the statement: *I go to the cinema*. Can you explain the different meanings? The first one has been done for you.

I can go to the cinema.	<i>Implies the speaker is allowed or able to go to the cinema.</i>
I may go to the cinema.	
I must go to the cinema.	
I shall go to the cinema.	
I will go to the cinema.	
I could go to the cinema.	
I might go to the cinema.	
I should go to the cinema.	
I would go to the cinema.	

Now, write three sentences of your own, using **modal verbs**.

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## **Answers**

I can go to the cinema.	<i>Implies the speaker is allowed or able to go to the cinema.</i>
I may go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that going to the cinema is a possibility.</b>
I must go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that going to the cinema is a necessity.</b>
I shall go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that the speaker is determined to go to the cinema.</b>
I will go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that the speaker is certain that they will go to the cinema.</b>
I could go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that the speaker is considering going to the cinema.</b>
I might go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that the speaker is considering going to the cinema.</b>
I should go to the cinema.	<b>Implies that the speaker feels an obligation to go to the cinema.</b>
I would go to the cinema.	<b>Implies a condition - the speaker would go if something else happened. (This doesn't work as a sentence: <i>I would go to the cinema if xyz... is preferable.</i>)</b>