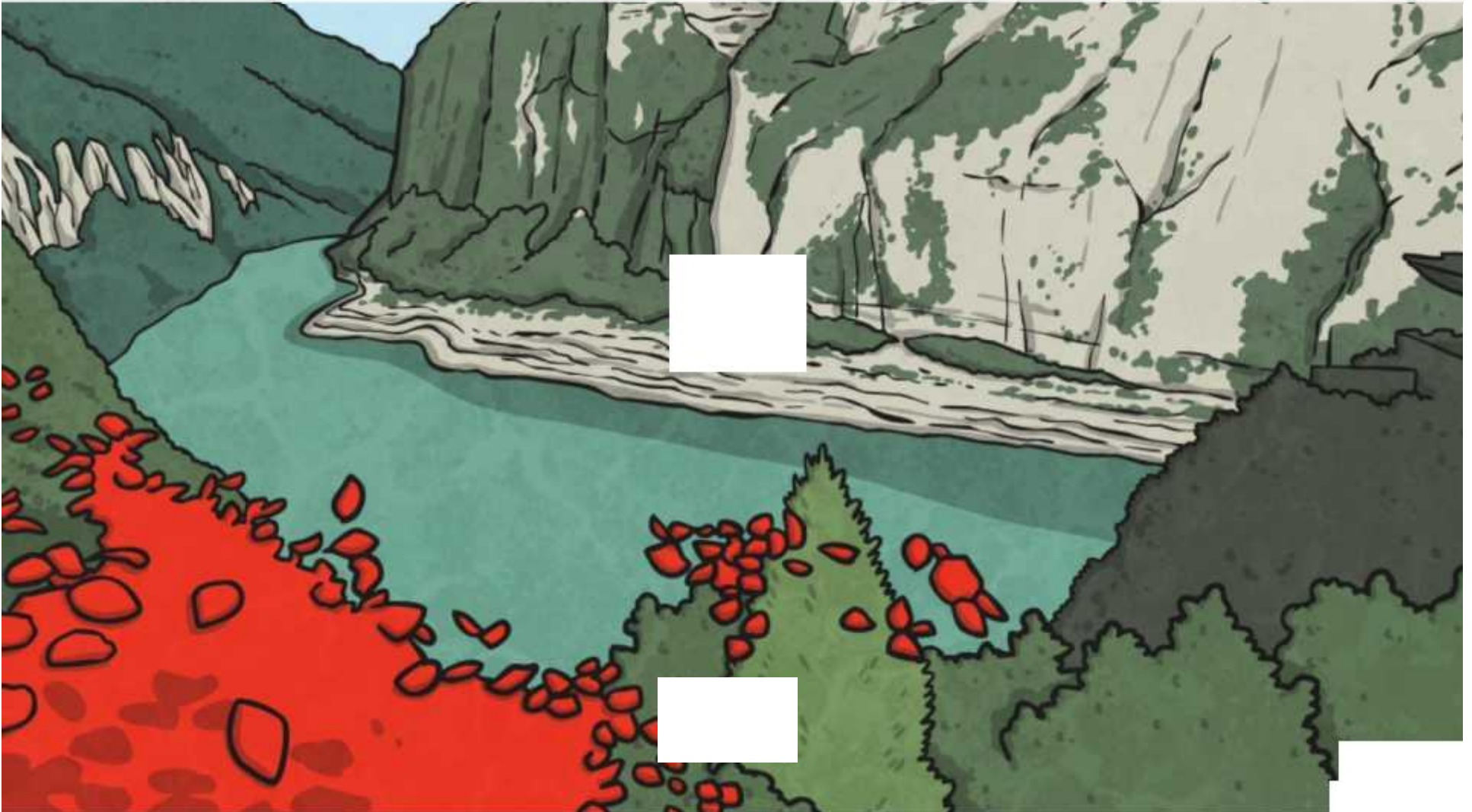


Modal Verbs



Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs which cannot usually work alone.
They are used with a main verb.

These are **modal verbs**:

might

will

should

may

would

can

could

must

shall

ought to

Modal verbs make questions by inversion.

She **can** go out.

Can she go out?



We **could** drive there.

Could we drive there?



Children **should** eat fruit.

Should children eat fruit?



Modal verbs can be used to show how possible something is, or how likely it is to happen/have happened.

For example:

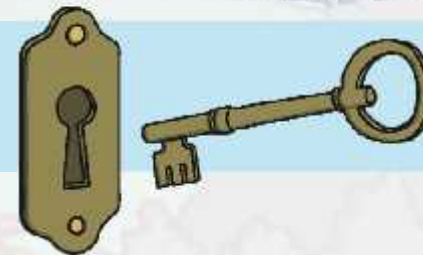
He's very late. He **could have missed** the train.



It's snowing so it **must be** very cold outside.



They **will lock** the windows when they go out.



Can you spot the **Modal verbs** used to show **possibility** in these sentences?

Mum **might** take us swimming after school.



You **could** eat a banana instead of those sweets.



“Hurry up! We **will** be late!” said Dad

Hurry up!

We **can** go the other way – it’s quicker.



You **ought** to go to bed earlier.



Which **Modal verbs** are missing from these sentences?

You **must** be hot in that thick coat.



If it's dry, **shall** we play outside?



He's so fast, he **should** win the race.



I'm fed up with my long hair. I **might** have it cut.



Did you choose these **modal verbs**?
Which others could you have used?

Modal verbs can also be used to show:

advice or obligation

Pupils **must** wear a uniform.

You **should** not smoke.



habits

I **will** often have cereal for my breakfast.

We **shall** always enjoy a walk in the park.



permission

May I leave a few minutes early?

Could we go to the post box on the way?

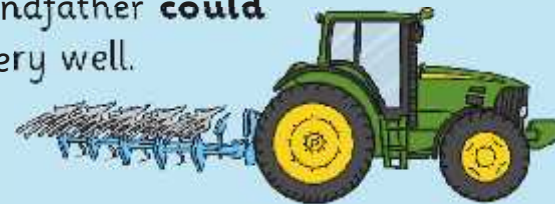
Please can we have an ice cream?

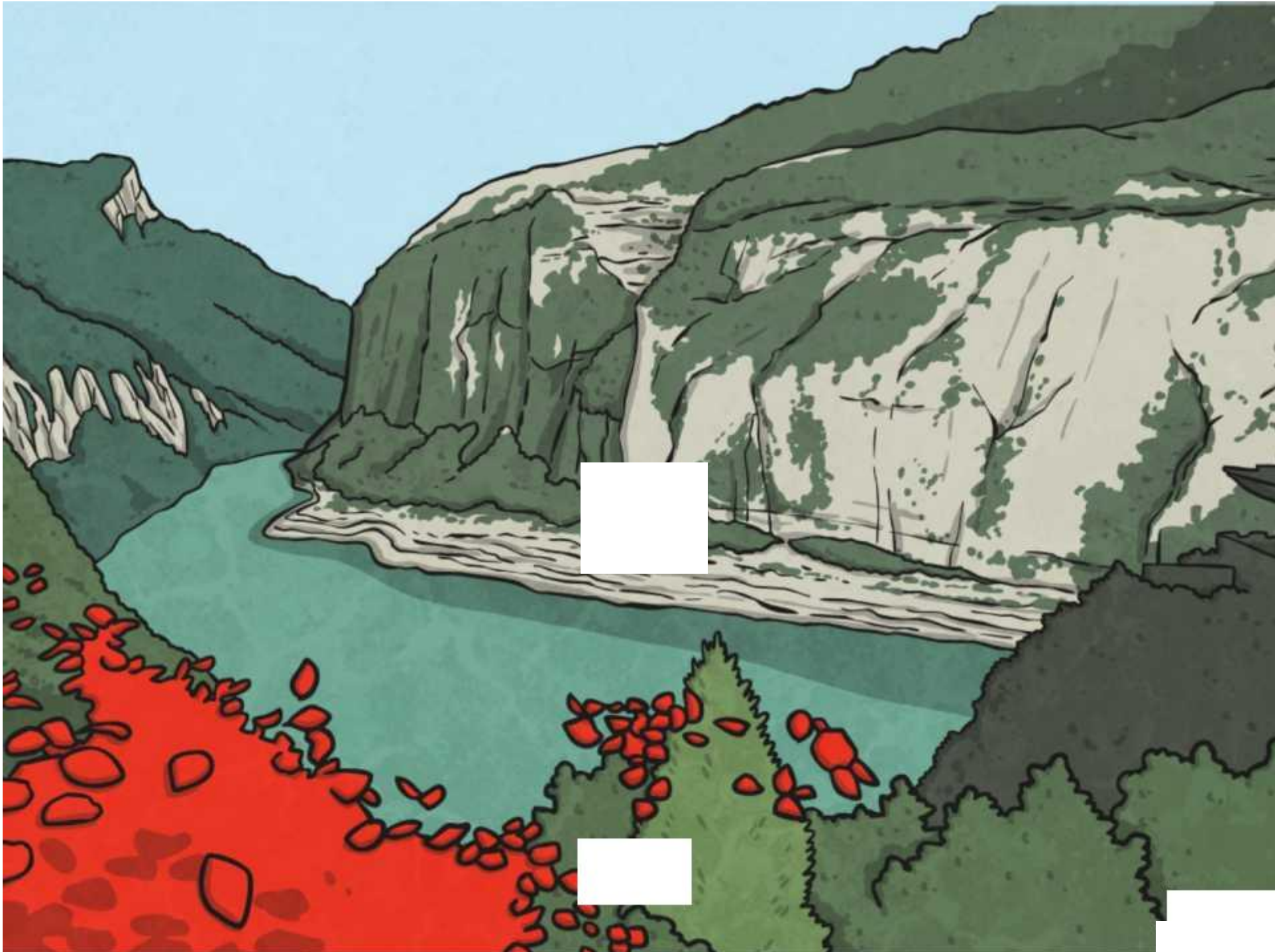


ability

I **can** drive a tractor.

My grandfather **could** draw very well.





Name:

Date:

22
total marks

Using Modal Verbs to Indicate Degrees of Possibility Mini Test

1. Tick all of the sentences which contain **modal verbs**.

I like chips because they taste nice.

I like singing but I prefer dancing.

I might be going on holiday at the weekend.

Dust mites are everywhere but they are so small we can't see them.

He should have scored. It was an open goal!

5 marks

2. Underline all of the **modal verbs** in the sentence below:

It would have been amazing if we had beaten the record. We knew we could have and as the minutes ticked down, we really thought we would. There is a lot of belief in the team that we can do this, and we might be back next year for another attempt.

5 marks

3. Choose one of these **modal verbs** to complete the sentences. You may only use each one once.

will

could not

may

should

can

5 marks

a) Try as she might, she _____ get the ball in the tiny hole.

b) If Hamza doesn't already brush his teeth well, then what the dentist told him _____ make him try harder.

c) For all we know, that _____ be the quickest route after all.

d) Letitia has improved a lot – she _____ do things she never would have dreamed of when she began.

e) Because it is an emergency, I _____ get there as quickly as I can.

total for this page

Using Modal Verbs to Indicate Degrees of Possibility Mini Test

2

4. Can you give a piece of advice to these people with a problem using the **modal verbs** would, could and should?

3 marks

a) Help! I have moved to a new school and I feel like I don't have any friends.

b) Help! Two friends have invited me to parties at the same time on the same day.

c) Help! I have always liked to wear unusual clothes but now people at school have begun to tease me.

5. Use and underline a **modal verb** in each of your sentences to explain how likely the following events are to happen...

4 marks

Winning the lottery - e.g. I might not win the lottery because such a lot of people enter.

a) Learning to play an instrument.

b) Getting married.

c) Learning to drive a car.

d) Becoming famous.

total for this page

1	<p>Tick all of the sentences which contain modal verbs.</p> <p>I like chips because they taste nice. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I like singing but I prefer dancing. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I might be going on holiday at the weekend. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dust mites are everywhere but they are so small we can't see them. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>He should have scored. It was an open goal! <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	5 marks
2	<p>Underline all of the modal verbs in this sentence:</p> <p>It <u>would</u> have been amazing if we had beaten the record. We knew we <u>could</u> have and as the minutes ticked down, we really thought we <u>would</u>. There is a lot of belief in the team that we <u>can</u> do this, and we <u>might</u> be back next year for another attempt.</p>	5 marks
3	<p>Choose one of these modal verbs to complete the sentences. You may only use each one once.</p> <p>Suggested answers as there are multiple possible answers to some questions.</p> <p>a) Try as she might, she <u>could not</u> get the ball in the tiny hole.</p> <p>b) If Keith doesn't already brush his teeth well, then what the dentist told him <u>should</u> make him try harder.</p> <p>c) For all we know, that <u>may</u> be the quickest route after all.</p> <p>d) Letitia has improved a lot – she <u>can</u> do things she never would have dreamed of when she began.</p> <p>e) Because it is an emergency, I <u>will</u> get there as quickly as I can.</p>	5 marks
4	<p>Can you give a piece of advice to these people with a problem using the modal verbs would, could and should?</p> <p>a) Help! I have moved to a new school and I feel like I don't have any friends.</p> <p>b) Help! Two friends have invited me to parties at the same time on the same day.</p> <p>c) Help! I have always liked to wear unusual clothes but now people at school have begun to tease me.</p> <p>Accept any sentences that have been formed correctly and use the modal verbs would, could and should.</p>	3 mark
5	<p>Use and underline a modal verb in each of your sentences to explain how likely the following events are to happen...</p> <p>Winning the lottery e.g. I might not win the lottery because such a lot of people enter.</p> <p>a) Learning to play an instrument. - <u>I could learn the guitar but I might end up doing other things.</u></p> <p>b) Getting married. - <u>I might get married and I might not!</u></p> <p>c) Learning to drive a car. - <u>I should learn to drive a car because it will help me get to places.</u></p> <p>d) Becoming famous. - <u>I may become famous if I can work hard at something.</u></p> <p>Accept any sentences that have been formed correctly and use the modal verbs would, could and should.</p>	4 mark



Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs

1. Choose one of these modal verbs to complete each of these sentences – you can use each one more than once if you need to.

can

might

will

should

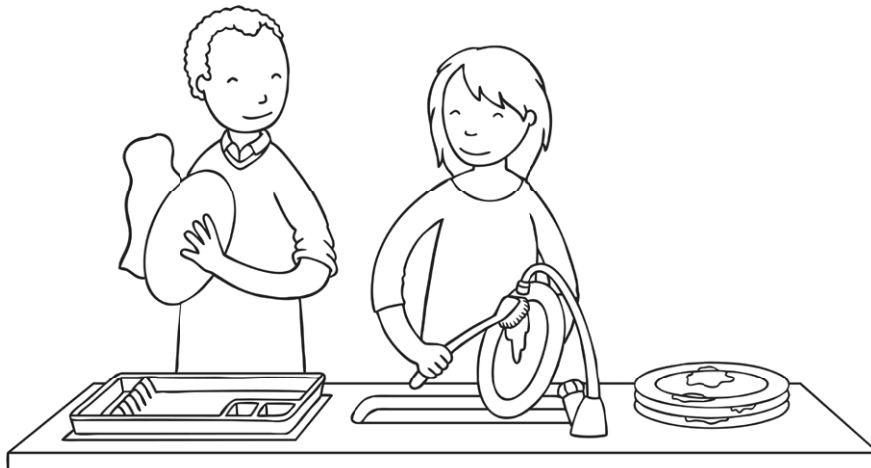
can't

mightn't

won't

shouldn't

- a) Pasha _____ try her hardest at school.
- b) He is so tired, he _____ keep his eyes open.
- c) Tom is a great footballer. He _____ even play in goal!
- d) If she keeps trying hard, she _____ just have a chance.
- e) He is still learning. He _____ do his shoe laces up just yet.
- f) You _____ hurt people or steal things.
- g) When you have finished eating, you _____ wash your plate.
- h) When they get there, they _____ find it waiting for them.
- i) The cold makes it likely there _____ be icy roads tomorrow.
- j) When I am older, I _____ be a millionaire.





Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs

1. Choose one of these modal verbs to complete each of these sentences.
You may only use each once so cross it off when you have used it!

can

might

will

should

would

can't

may

must

shouldn't

couldn't

- a) Pasha _____ complete her homework.
- b) He was so tired he _____ keep his eyes open.
- c) Tom is a great footballer. He _____ even play in goal!
- d) If she keeps trying hard, she _____ just have a chance.
- e) He is still learning. He _____ do his shoe laces up just yet.
- f) You _____ hurt people or steal things.
- g) When you have finished, you _____ leave the table.
- h) It has been ordered, so when they get there, they _____ find it waiting for them.
- i) The bitter cold makes is certain there _____ be icy roads tomorrow.
- j) I _____ happily swap places with a millionaire.





Complete the Sentences with Modal Verbs

1. In some sentences, there are multiple modal verbs which could be used. In the right hand column of the table below, write down all of the modal verbs which could fit each sentence. Cover the word list to provide an extra challenge!

can

might

will

should

would

can't

may

must

shouldn't

couldn't

a) Pasha _____ do her homework.	
b) He was so tired he _____ keep his eyes open.	
c) Tom is a great footballer. He _____ even play in goal!	
d) If she keeps trying hard, she _____ just have a chance.	
e) He is still learning. He _____ do his shoe laces up just yet.	
f) You _____ hurt people or steal things.	
g) When you have finished, you _____ leave the table.	
h) It has been ordered, so when they get there, they _____ find it waiting for them.	
i) The bitter cold makes it certain there _____ be icy roads tomorrow.	
j) I _____ happily swap places with a millionaire.	



1. Choose one of these modal verbs to complete each of these sentences – you can use each one more than once if you need to.

As these sentences make sense with a variety of modal verbs, the suggested answer is for 'best fit' only.

- a) Pasha should try her hardest at school.
- b) He is so tired, he can't keep his eyes open.
- c) Tom is a great footballer. He can even play in goal!
- d) If she keeps trying hard, she might just have a chance.
- e) He is still learning. He can't do his shoe laces up just yet.
- f) You shouldn't hurt people or steal things.
- g) When you have finished eating, you should wash your plate.
- h) When they get there, they should find it waiting for them.
- i) The cold makes it likely there will be icy roads tomorrow.
- j) When I am older I might be a millionaire.



1. Choose one of these modal verbs to complete each of these sentences. You may only use each once so cross it off when you have used it!

As these sentences make sense with a variety of modal verbs, the suggested answer is for 'best fit' only.

- a) Pasha must complete her homework.
- b) He was so tired he couldn't keep his eyes open.
- c) Tom is a great footballer. He can even play in goal!
- d) If she keeps trying hard, she might just have a chance.
- e) He is still learning. He can't do his shoe laces up just yet.
- f) You shouldn't hurt people or steal things.
- g) When you have finished, you may leave the table.
- h) It has been ordered, so when they get there, they should find it waiting for them.
- i) The bitter cold makes is certain there will be icy roads tomorrow.
- j) I would happily swap places with a millionaire.



1. In some sentences there are multiple modal verbs which could be used. In the right hand column of the table below, write down the modal verbs which would make sense in the sentence given.

Answers are just suggested – there may be some discussion about whether individual words make sense in given sentences.

a) Pasha _____ do her homework.	<i>can, may, might, will, must</i>
b) He was so tired he _____ keep his eyes open.	<i>couldn't, wouldn't</i>
c) Tom is a great footballer. He _____ even play in goal!	<i>can, may, might, will, would, must, should</i>
d) If she keeps trying hard, she _____ just have a chance.	<i>may, might, will, must, should</i>
e) He is still learning. He _____ do his shoe laces up just yet.	<i>can't</i>
f) You _____ hurt people or steal things.	<i>will, can't, shouldn't</i>
g) When you have finished, you _____ leave the table.	<i>may, can, must, might, should, can't, shouldn't</i>
h) It has been ordered, so when they get there, they _____ find it waiting for them.	<i>may, might, will, must, should</i>
i) The bitter cold makes is certain there _____ be icy roads tomorrow.	<i>may, might, will</i>
j) I _____ happily swap places with a millionaire.	<i>would, wouldn't, might, will,</i>



Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence using **one of the modal verbs** supplied with the situation. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Example: An elephant jumps into a swimming pool.

might

must not

should

Everyone should get out in case all of the water splashes out!

a) A bull gets loose in a supermarket.

may

shouldn't

could

b) A teddy bear plays up front for Manchester United.

will

can

would

c) It rains non-stop for a month.

wouldn't (would not)

ought to

might not

d) A shark has a wrestling match with a bear.

can

might not (mightn't)

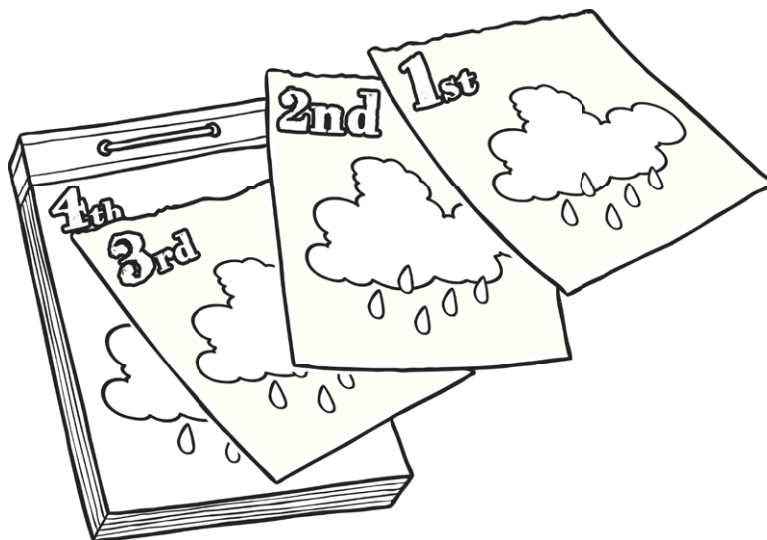
could

e) A chocolate river is found in South America.

must

may not (mayn't)

could





Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

Challenge:

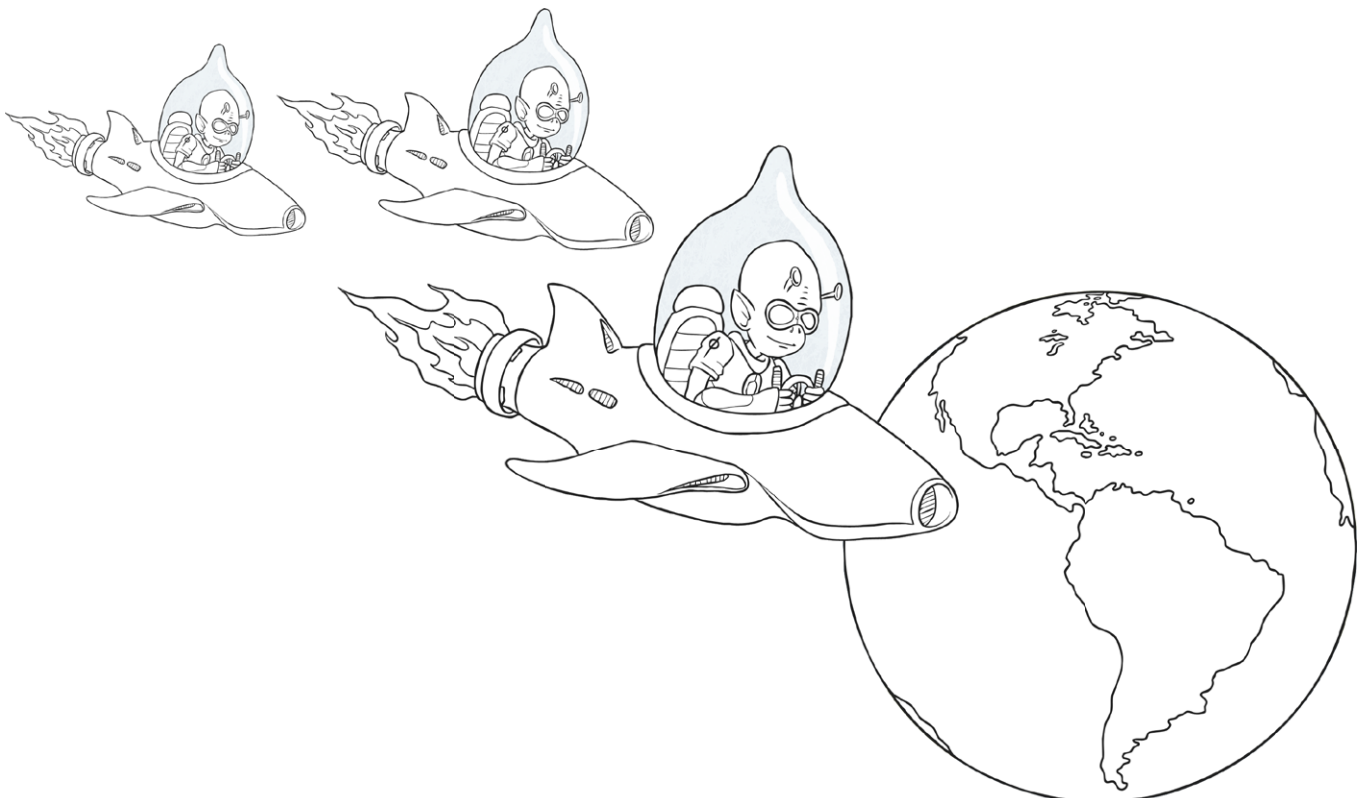
2. For the following situations make **your own choice of a modal verb** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

a) Some cows form a band and release a single.

b) An alien attack fleet approaches Earth.

c) A cat attempts to climb Mount Everest.

d) The police start recruiting children to join the force.





Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence which uses **two of the modal verbs** supplied with the situation. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Example: An elephant jumps into a swimming pool.

might

must not

should

It might be okay for elephants to swim without clothes in the wild but when they are in the swimming pool, they should wear a costume like everybody else.

a) A bull gets loose in a supermarket.

may

shouldn't

could

b) A teddy bear plays up front for Manchester United.

will

can

would

c) It rains non-stop for a month.

wouldn't (would not)

ought to

might not

d) A shark has a wrestling match with a bear.

can

might not (mightn't)

could

e) A chocolate river is found in South America.

must

may not (mayn't)

could



Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

Challenge:

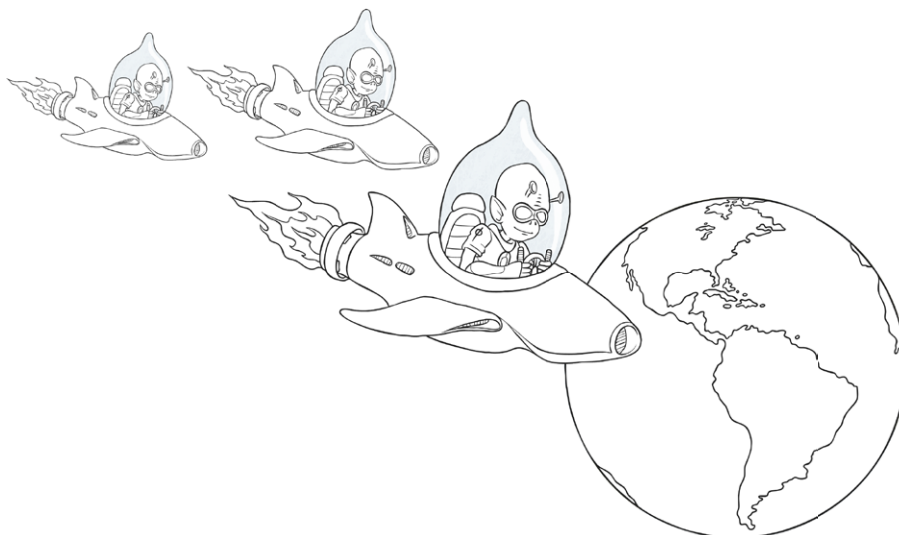
2. For the following situations make **your own choice of two modal verbs** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

a) Some cows form a band and release a single.

b) An alien attack fleet approaches Earth.

c) A cat attempts to climb Mount Everest.

d) The police start recruiting children to join the force.





Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence using each of the modal verbs supplied with the example. You may be able to use **two or more of the modal verbs** in one sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Example: An elephant jumps into a swimming pool.

might

must not

should

Although some people might disagree, my feeling is that elephants should wear swimming costumes and must not be allowed to swim if they don't.

a) A bull gets loose in a supermarket.

may

shouldn't

could

b) A teddy bear plays up front for Manchester United.

will

can

would

c) It rains non-stop for a month.

wouldn't (would not)

ought to

might not

d) A shark has a wrestling match with a bear.

can

might not (mightn't)

could

e) A chocolate river is found in South America.

must

may not (mayn't)

could



Using Modal Verbs to Assess Situations

Challenge:

2. For the following situations make **your own choice of at least 3 modal verbs** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

a) Some cows form a band and release a single.

b) An alien attack fleet approaches Earth.

c) A cat attempts to climb Mount Everest.

d) The police start recruiting children to join the force.



1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence using **one of the modal verbs** supplied with the situation. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) There **may** be some tidying up to do.
There **could** be some slightly nervous shoppers.
Bulls **shouldn't** be allowed in supermarkets.
- b) **Will** he score the winning goal?
No one **can** perform overhead kicks like he can.
Would any other teams be interested in signing him?
- c) It **wouldn't** be a good month for a barbecue.
We **ought to** buy a boat.
It **might not** ever stop!
- d) This one **could** go either way.
The bear **can** swim but the shark is in trouble on land.
This **might not** be a good event for spectators.
- e) This **must** be the first one ever found.
The Brazilians **may not** be keen to share it.
There **could** be a big rise in tourists to the area.

2. For the following situations make **your own choice of a modal verb** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) There **might not** be all that much demand for cow tunes.
They **could** be the first animals to top the charts.
They **shouldn't** let success go to their heads.
- b) The spaceships **might** be the size of flies.
The invasion **may** ruin some people's day.
We **ought to** ask them to stay for tea.
- c) If it fell off the top **would** it land on its paws?
It **might** get blown off the slopes in a gale.
I **wouldn't** let my cat climb a mountain.
- d) This **will** be an interesting experiment.
Children **can** be effective law enforcers.
Would children catch more criminals than adults?



1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence which uses **two of the modal verbs** supplied with the situation. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) There **may** be some tidying up to do but it **shouldn't** be too bad as long as no-one holds up a red blanket.
 - b) Only the best **will** be able to stop this bear who **can** perform so many skilful moves.
 - c) It **wouldn't** be a good time for our barbecue, we **ought to** have a puddle-jumping party instead.
 - d) This one **could** go either way - the bear **can** swim but the shark is in trouble on land.
 - e) This **must** be the first one ever found and the locals **may not** be keen to share it.
2. For the following situations make **your own choice of two modal verbs** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) They **could** be the first animals to top the charts but they **shouldn't** let success go to their heads.
- b) The spaceships **may** only be the size of flies but the invasion **might** still ruin some people's day.
- c) Cats **can** climb well, and a cat **would** be able to cling on to the mountain even if strong winds and gales were blowing.
- d) This **will** be an interesting experiment because usually children **can** tell when someone is up to no good.



1. Consider the situations below and see if you can create a sentence using each of the modal verbs supplied with the example. You may be able to use **two or more of the modal verbs** in one sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) *There **may** be some tidying up to do and there **could** be some slightly nervous shoppers because bulls **shouldn't** really be allowed in supermarkets.*
 - b) *No one **can** perform overhead kicks like him and many other teams **would** love to have him – he **will** score the winning goal again.*
 - c) *It **wouldn't** be a good month for a barbecue, but we **ought to** make sure we don't just stay inside because it **might not** stop!*
 - d) *This one **could** go either way because although the bear **can** swim it **would** be no match for the shark in the water.*
 - e) *This must be the first chocolate river ever found and although there **could** be a big rise in tourists to the area, the locals **may not** be keen to share it.*
2. For the following situations make **your own choice of at least 3 modal verbs** to use to create a sentence. Be as creative as you can in your thinking.

Suggested possible answers.

- a) *They **could** be the first cows to top the charts although they **shouldn't** be surprised if the record doesn't sell well as there **might not** be all that much demand for cow tunes.*
- b) *The spaceships **might** have travelled a long way and although some Earthlings **may** be frightened, we **ought to** ask them to stay for tea.*
- c) *I **wouldn't** let my cat climb a mountain, it **might** blow off the slopes in a gale. Although if it did fall off the top at least it **would** land on its paws.*
- d) *This **will** be an interesting development because children **can** be good judges of what **should** and **shouldn't** be allowed.*

Using Adverbs and Modal Verbs to Indicate Degrees of Possibility

You can use adverbs and modal verbs to describe how likely things are to happen or to what degree of certainty something is known.

Modal verbs usually come before another verb to show the possibility or certainty of the action happening.

Adverbs

It is certainly going to rain later.

Tom is definitely a better singer than Alex.

Maybe you should take a shower.

Surely, you don't mean that.

I am possibly attending the party later.

My sister is clearly very lazy.

Obviously, our class is the best.

Perhaps we should visit the museum.

It would probably be a good idea to tidy up.

Florida is undoubtedly sunnier than London.

Jamil could hardly believe he had won the competition.

It is quite likely that I will eat pizza for dinner.

Modal Verbs

Positive

I will try to do my best in class.

It would be a catastrophe.

Kay can win the race.

We could buy sandwiches for lunch.

Ibrahim may play the king in the play.

Those ducks might swim across the river.

The class shall have a treat this afternoon.

Snacks should be eaten at break time.

You must open the door.

Katja ought to get up early.

Modal Verbs

Negative

I will not (won't) try to do my best in class.

It would not (wouldn't) be a catastrophe.

Kay cannot (can't) win the race.

We could not (couldn't) buy sandwiches for lunch.

Ibrahim may not play the king in the show.

Those ducks might not (mightn't) swim across the river.

The class shall not (shan't) have a treat this afternoon.

Snacks should not (shouldn't) be eaten at break time.

You must not (mustn't) open the door.

Katja ought not (oughtn't) get up early.