



Modal Verbs in English

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Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
Can		To be able to do something	I can speak two languages.
could		past of "can"; able to	I could swim when I was five.
May		Used to express possibility	It may rain tomorrow.
Might		Used to express the possibility that something will happen or be done	I might go to the cinema tonight.
Must		Used to show that it is necessary or very important that something happens in the present or future	I must go now.
Shall		Used for suggestions	Shall we go?
Should		Used to say or ask what is the correct or best thing to do	You should see a doctor.
Will		Used to talk about the future	I will call you tomorrow.
Would		Used to talk about a possible situation	I would like a cup of tea.
ought to		should; it is the right or expected thing	You ought to call your mother more often.