

# Year 6 Grammar Revision

**Modal Verbs**

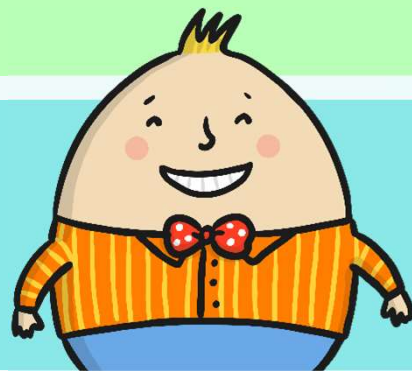


# Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

**Modal verbs can have many uses.** They are sometimes known as 'modal auxiliary verbs' or just as 'modals'. In most cases, they work with another verb to describe the **possibility** of something happening or to describe to what degree of **certainty** something is known.

Look at these sentences that contain modal verbs:

The rounders team **could** win the tournament.



Humpty Dumpty **will** fall off the wall.

# Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

Here are the most common modal verbs:

might

could

would

must

may

will

ought

can

should

shall

You could also use the negative forms of these words as modal verbs, e.g.

The frog **might not** become a prince.



# Modal Verbs for Possibility: The Rules

Modal verbs usually **come before a verb** in its **infinitive form**.

If I work hard, when I grow up I could be a doctor.

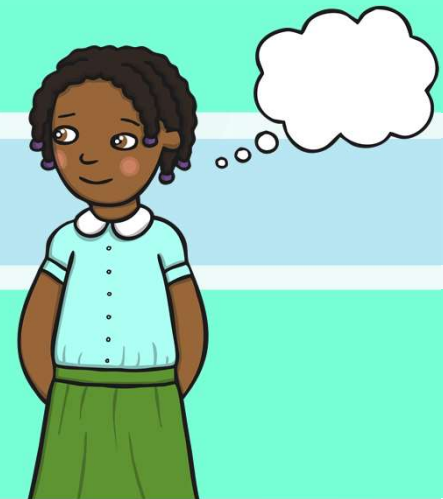
↓  
'could' is the **modal verb**.

'be' is the **infinitive form** of the verb 'to be'. Infinitive means in its most basic form.

In a few years, I shall earn a university degree.

↓  
'shall' is the modal verb.

'earn' is the infinitive form of the verb 'to earn'.



# Modal Verbs to Show Obligation

**Modal verbs** can also express the **obligation** for someone to do something.

You **must** come back home now.

You **must not** do that ever again.

You **will** tidy your room.



# Modal Verbs for Ability : The Rules

**Modal verbs** can also **express an ability** to do another verb.



I can sing  
beautifully.

I cannot ride a  
skateboard.



# Modal Verbs : The Tricky Bit

**Modal verbs** can also sometimes **ask for permission**. Here the **main verb doesn't always follow the modal verb**.

Can I leave the table please?



Could I take your photograph?



## Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 1

Underline the modal verbs in these sentences.

I shall catch the bus to your house

If she trains hard, Joanne should  
win the competition.

We will not be visiting Cornwall this year.

Can you tidy your room now?



## Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 2

Which event is most likely to happen?

We could go out for lunch today.

This afternoon, Josie might play tennis.

The sun will come out tomorrow.

Michael should get a shower tonight.

## Modal Verbs – Quiz Question 3

Tick one box in each row to show how the modal verb affects the meaning of the sentence.

| Sentence   | Modal verb indicates certainty      | Modal verb indicates possibility    |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ferrari might win the drivers' championship this season. |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Lily can ride her bike without stabilisers.              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| It will snow this winter.                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |

Are you feeling confident  
with modal verbs?

