

Modal Rules

↳ may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should,
must, dare, ought to, used to, need

semi modals.

May / Might

1. show / ask for permission.

e.g. May I borrow 2 books from your shop?

2. informal request.

May I have the salt please?

3. Present / future possibility

e.g. The sky is cloudy, it may rain today.

4. Denoting good wishes.

e.g. May God bless you!

5. Expressing purpose.

e.g. We eat so that we may live.

He works hard so that he may earn good livelihood.

6. expressing astonishment.

Who may be my friend here!

7. When may we expect you?

Might

1. requests.

e.g. Might I borrow your golden necklace?

2. eg He asked if he might come in.

3. He may have been wounded.

4. If you invited her, she might attend the party.

Can

1. express physical / mental ability / capacity / capability.

eg I can solve this puzzle.

Can you lift this suitcase?

2. Can you lend me ten lac rupees?

3. What can he do?

4. What can she say, I wonder?

5. 'circumstantial possibility'

eg. You can ski on the hills now-a-days.

You can go there by road now.

'May' / 'Can'

1. I can meet the Chairman whenever I want.

2. You may park your vehicle here.

3. He may take my umbrella.

Could

1. request.

Could you lend me your car for a day?

2. past ability.

eg. When I was young, I could climb any tree.

3. present context

e.g. Could you operate the machine by yourself?
[if it becomes necessary]

Could you get another job?
[if you lose this]

4. He could have caught the train, if he had hurried.

He could have sent a message.

'Could / Might'

1. Possibilities.

e.g. She could / might have heard it from Sarita.

2. Anita might not / have seen Ram yesterday.
could not

3. Ramesh told me that he could lend me this umbrella.

4. unreal conditions

If I had ten crore of rupees, I could build a temple.

5. On Sundays, we could stay up late.
(were allowed to)

6. I wonder where Shyam is. He could be in the club.

7. Couldn't I pay by cheque?

Shall / Will.

1. I shall go to market tomorrow. [future]

2. He shall pay you on Monday.

3. He shall work hard to achieve success.

4. You shall go to meet him tomorrow. [instructed]

You shall not meet him.

5. Wish

e.g. Shall I open the door for you?

Shall I carry this box to the room for you?

Shall Rahim wait for you?

Shall the messenger wait outside?

Will

1. He will go tomorrow.

2. You will work here.

3. I will see you. (threat, warning)

4. I will pay you on Monday. (promise).

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets

- I love nature. The spring season is (be) the best of all seasons. There is (be) freshness all around. Nature breathes (breath) a new life and looks (look) colourful like a bride. Beautiful flowers dance (dance) merrily.
- The Taj Mahal is (be) a beautiful building. The Taj stands (stand) on the bank of the river Yamuna. It is made (make) of white marble. It has (have) four marble minarets on which the great dome stands (stand). Shah Jahan built (build) it in memory of his beloved queen, Mumtaz, and it costs (cost) over three crore of rupees.
- Sound sleep is (be) necessary for good health. Every body dreams (dream) during sleep. Sometimes the dreams are (be) pleasant and others (be) unpleasant. Last week, I had (have) a very bad dream. I dreamt (dream) that my class, accompanied by our teachers, was (go) to Shimla for the weekend. I had gone (have) to Shimla for the weekend.
- Last Sunday was (be) a bad day for me as I spent (spend) the whole of it in bed. When I got (get) up at 7 o'clock, I had (have) a severe headache and was (perspire). My mother took (take) my temperature. I consulted (consult) a doctor. He checked (check) me thoroughly.
- A flock of sheep is (is/are) grazing in the ground. (is/are)
- Time and tide wait (wait/waits) for none. (wait/waits)
- More than five persons have (have/has) signed the complaint. (have/has)
- One third of the work was (was/were) left incomplete. (was/were)
- Neither he nor his sister was (was/were) invited. (was/were)
- Sachin is one of the players who have (have/has) been selected for the match. (have/has)
- One of the students of our class was (was/were) selected. (was/were)

- Age and experience makes (make/makes) a man wise. (make/makes)
- Ten times fifty is (is/are) five hundred. (is/are)
- It is I who am (is/am) to answer him. (is/am)
- The sun rises (rise/s) in the east. (rise/s)

Fill in the blanks with correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

- What is (is/are) the latest news. (is/are)
- Fifty rupees is (is/are) not a big amount. (is/are)
- The United States is (is/are) a powerful nation. (is/are)
- Economics is (is/are) an interesting subject. (is/are)
- Cattle are (is/are) grazing in the field. (is/are)
- Neither of us is (is/are) ready to go there. (is/are)
- Billiards is (is/are) my favourite game. (is/are)
- What I say and what I think are (are/is) my personal matters. (are/is)
- Both of them are (is/are) good friends. (is/are)
- What is (is/are) the news. (is/are)
- Honesty is (be) the best policy. (be)
- She is (write) writing a letter now. (write)
- Half of the apples are (is/are) ripe. (is/are)
- Half of the land is (is/are) uncultivated. (is/are)
- Barking dogs never bite (bite/bites) (bite/bites)
- A lot of food is (is/are) still lying on the table. (is/are)
- Fifty rupees is (is/are) a big sum for him. (is/are)
- The Himalayas are (is/are) a range of mountains. (is/are)
- Neither she nor her son has (has/have) arrived so far. (has/have)
- It is I who am (is/am) to bear the loss. (is/am)
- I wish, I was (was/were) a writer. (was/were)
- Your trousers are (is/are) very tight. (is/are)
- She wrote (write) a letter to me last month. (write)
- I wish, I was (be) a queen. (be)
- I met (meet) her last week at her residence. (meet)

Fill in the blanks with correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

1. Suraj, rather than his friends. ...is.. guilty. (is/are)
2. Quarters of this type ~~has~~ have three bed rooms. (has/have)
3. Oil and water do not mix fully. (do/does)
4. A bunch of keys was found by her. (was/were)
5. His trousers are not clean. (is/are)
6. A flock of sheep is grazing in the field. (is/are)
7. I for you for two hours. (wait) have been waiting
8. Everyone of the students present at function.
(was/were) was

9. I wish, I a beautiful girl. (was/were) were
10. A set of combs been lost. (has/have) has

Modal Verbs:

Should

↳ duty, responsibility, advice,
probability, expectation, presumption,
moral obligation, mild command.

- (a) One should obey one's elders. (duty)
- (b) You should obey your parents. (moral obligation)
- (c) The rich should help the poor. (expectation).
- (d) You should work hard. (advice).
- (e) You should find her in the playground.
(probability).

- express purpose like 'may' and 'might'
→ I taught her so that she should pass.

- 'should' [Perfect tense] denotes an obligation that was not fulfilled.

E.g. He should have gone by morning bus.

- should with 'lest' [in case]

E.g. Move fast lest you should miss the bus.

Would

- For requests. - politeness. [in comparison to 'will']
For wish.

E.g. Would you accompany me to the railway station.
(polite request)

- Would - likelihood, presumption, probability

E.g. He would be in the field now. (likelihood)

She would be in the club at this time. (probability)

- 'would' - strong desire / willingness

I wish, you would fight this election.

- would - unrealistic imaginations.

E.g. - If I had one crore rupees, I would donate fifty lacs to the trust.

- would - show preference.

E.g. I would rather rest now.

- would - denotes the action which did not take place.

Eg :- If he had come to me, I would have given a job. (He didn't come).

- would -

E.g - He told me that he would go to Bandra the next day.

Would you like a cup of tea?

Must

↳ commands, compulsion, order,

1. Soldiers must obey orders without any question.

All the girls must attend the function.

2. must - express, moral duty / obligation.

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We must respect our elders.

You must help your friends in need.

• Must - necessity, urgency, circumstantial compulsion.

e.g. I must leave now, otherwise I may miss the train.

The electricity will be cut off at 8 a.m., so I must complete my work before.

• must not - prohibition, emphatic advice.

E.g. Students must not resort to copying.

You must not miss the classes.

• Must - strong probability / likelihood / logical presumption.

E.g. - She must be eighty now.

• must + have

E.g. The roads are wet. It must have rained last night.

night.

- The use of must + have been

E.g. - He must have been living here.

- Need and Dare
semi modals.

1. You needn't type this letter.

2. He need not talk to her.

3. Need he talk to her?

need - hardly / scarcely / only

1. I need hardly say how pleased we are to welcome Mr. Narendra Modi here.

2. Need - Authority / advice

E.g. You needn't remind me again, just set the alarm on. -

3 He needn't have written such a detailed essay.

4. You needn't pay till the 30th.

5. I needed your help.

6. He needs my assistance.

Dare

↳ He dares to oppose you.

↳ He dares not to oppose you.

↳ How dare my wife leave without my permission?

Used to

↳ no present tense

1. discontinued habit, past situation which is no more.

↳ He used to play cricket.

2 used → accustomed

E.g. - I am used to having tea in the morning.

He is used to reading newspapers with morning tea.

Ought to — Present + Future + Past

E.g. I ought to write to her today / tomorrow.

I knew, I ought to write to her.

(Advice)

You ought to consult a physician.

↓ (moral duty)

We ought to respect our parents.

ought to / - should

↳ Students should be prepared to donate ~~the~~ blood.

Subject
Noun

Verb

adjective

Dennis became impatient when Thomas took so long to choosing a movie.

✓ Linking Verb