

St. Francis ESOL post-lesson handout

-modal verbs

What are modal verbs?

Modal verbs => helping verb (auxiliary verb)

Modal verbs help main verbs to add more meaning on the main verb.

For example.....

He **lives** in London

But if you want to add more meanings on 'lives' -- We use modal verbs

He **may** (possibility) **live** in London -> As we put modal verb 'may', now we do not know whether he lives in London or not.

How can we structure the sentence?

Modal verbs Main verb

S+V(may)+V(live)+O in London.

1. Modal verb first, and then main verb.

2. Modal verbs never change the form

She **may**, I **may**.

3. Main verb with modal verb- always stay the base form (infinitive)!

may **lives**, **lived** (x)

may **live**.

Can

Can- ability

1. He **can cook**.
2. She **can speak** French.
3. He **can swim**.

Can- ask a permission to do something

1. **Can** I **have** some popcorn?
2. **Can** I **sit** here?
3. **Can** I **borrow** this book? It seems interesting to read.

May

May- ask a formal permission to do something

1. **May** I **take** your coat?
2. **May** I **read** the letter for you?
3. **May** I **have** your passport and mobile please?

May- a small possibility

1. It **may rain** tomorrow.
2. The clothes you bought **may be** big, why don't you try it.
3. She **may come** later.

Must

Must- obligation

You **must rest**, or your leg won't heal.

2. You **must go** to Paris, it's a wonderful city to stay.

3. Sarah **must not eat** an ice cream today.

Must- logical certainty (100% sure)

1. Studying modal verbs **must be** hard for you.

2. This car **must take** a lot of oil.

3. This food **must contain** a lot of fat.

Will

Will- prediction

1. Short hair **will ('ll) suit** you.

2. This book **will ('ll) be** interesting.

3. The film **will ('ll) start** soon. Let's wait a few minutes.

Will- decision

1. I **will ('ll) go** to Paris when the lockdown is over.

2. Max **will ('ll) buy** a guitar for his friend's birthday.

3. Lucas **will ('ll) study** Korean for his travel to Korea.

Let's practice!

Read the Anderson's diary, and fill in the blanks with a correct modal verbs.

Dear Diary,

It was a fantastic game day today.

My school's basketball team 'Dinosaurs' won the big game with the 'Eagles'. I would love to participate in the team because I (1)_____ play basketball very well.

So I asked the team coach. ' (2)_____ I join in the game?' The coach said, 'If you ask me politely.' So I asked him again, '(3)_____ I join in the game?'.

Coach replies, 'okay, there (4)_____ be a position for you'. 'But, you (5)_____ practice shooting hard'. 'Because there (6)_____ be a lot of friends like you want to join the club.'

I (7)_____ practice shooting very hard from today. The basketball court (8)_____ open at 6 am tomorrow. I can do this!

-Word list

May (permission-polite), May (a small possibility),

Can (ability), Can (permission),

Will (prediction), Will (decision).

Must (obligation), Must (logical certainty),

Let's practice!- Answers

It was a fantastic game day today.

My school's basketball team 'Dinosaurs' won the big game with the 'Eagles'. I would love to participate in the team because I can (ability) play basketball very well.

So I asked the team coach. 'Can (permission) I join in the game?' The coach said, 'If you ask me politely.' So I asked him again, 'May (permission- formal) I join in the game?'

Coach replies, 'okay, there may (a small possibility) be a position for you'. 'But, you must (obligation) practice shooting hard'. 'Because there must (logical certainty) be a lot of friends like you want to join the club.'

I will (decision) practice shooting very hard from today. The basketball court will (prediction) open at 6 am tomorrow. I can do this!!!!