

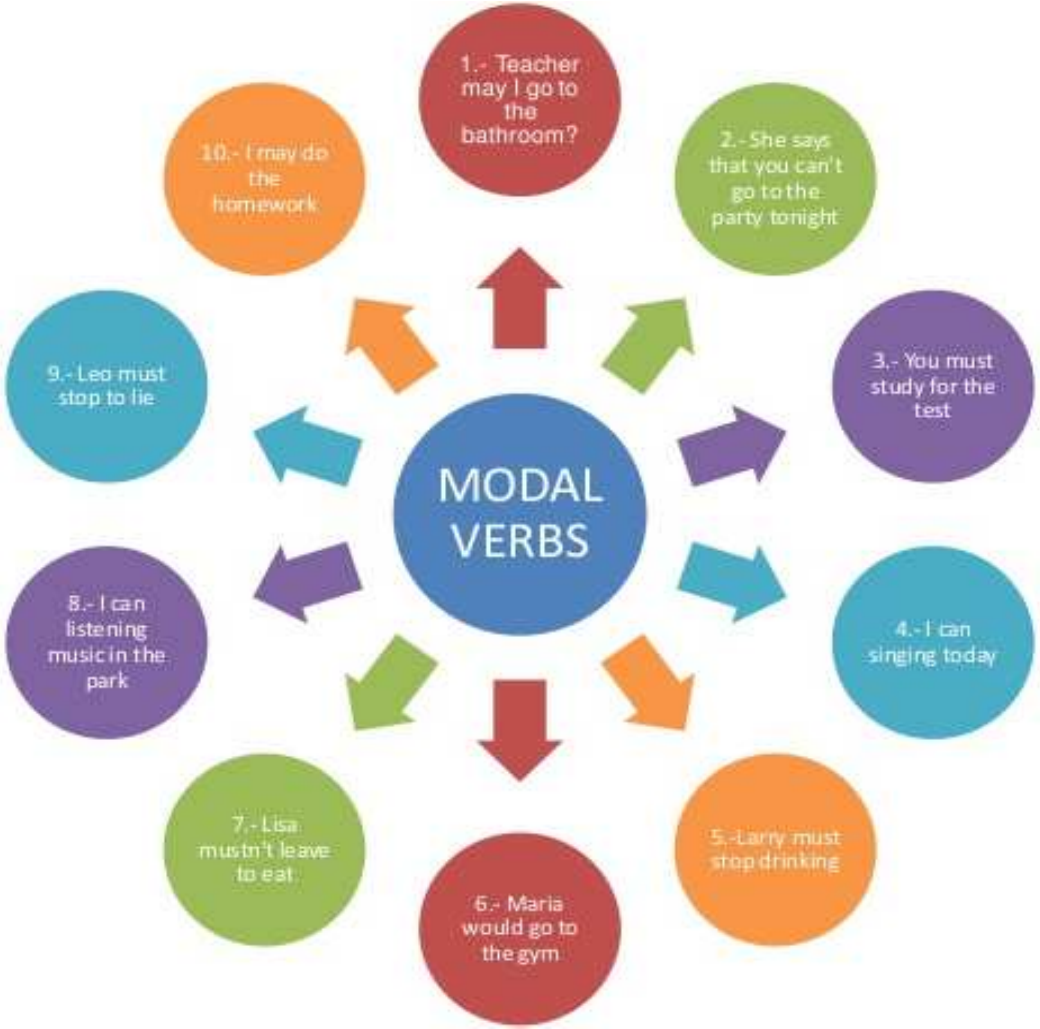
Modal verbs

Modals of Deduction and Speculation

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Modal verbs:

- Common characteristics:
  - They only have <u>one form</u>
  - They are followed by an <u>infinitive without *to*</u> (bare-infinitive)
  - They form questions using inversion (change their place with the subject of the sentence)
  - They form the negative taking “not”
  - They indicate modality:
    - ability or capacity – can / could
    - permission – may / might
    - request – will (as “Will you give me a pen?”)
    - suggestions or advice – should, ought to
    - order or obligation – must



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Modal verbs to express certainty, uncertainty, deduction and speculation:

- Must
  - – certainty: we are 100% sure that something is true:
    - He must speak French. He used to live in France.
  - – deduction: we ask for confirmation
    - You must be tired after such a long trip.
- May, might, could
  - – possibily: we think that something is posible now or in the future.
    - He might be at home. He may help you.
  - – speculation about future events:
    - You may win the game if you practice a lot.
- Can´t
  - – certainty: we are 100% sure that something is NOT true:
    - He can´t be at home. I just saw him at the supermarket.
  - – impossibility: we know that something is not true because it´s impossible:
    - It can´t be a ghost. Ghosts do no exists.



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Modal Continuous

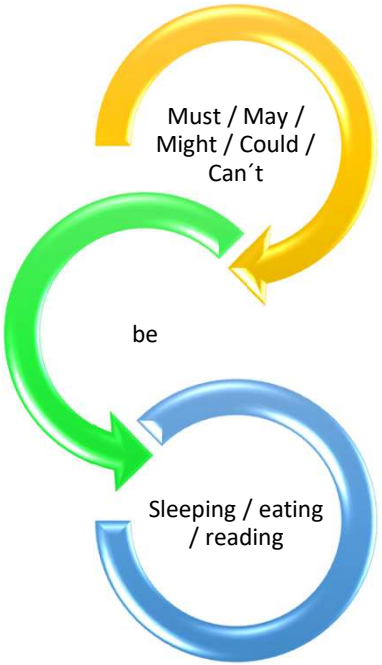
Structure: modal verb + be + present participle (-ing) of the verb

She must work hard. → She must be working hard.

They might come home. → They might be coming home.

She can´t speak seriously. → She can´t be speaking seriously.

This structure can be used with all modals!



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Make sentences what you can deduce or speculate about this picture.

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Past modals or modal perfect

Structure: modal verb + have + past participle (third form) of the verb

She must love you.	→ She must have loved you.
I´m sure she loves you.	I´m sure she loved you.
They might win the game.	→ They might have won the game.
It´s possibile that they will win.	I don´t know the results – but it´s possible.
She can´t solve the puzzle.	→ She can´t have solved the puzzle.
It will be impossible for her.	She must have had some help – it was impossible for someone with her capacity.

This structure can be used with all modals!



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Describe what you think might have happened.

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