

Modal	Example	Uses
Can	They can control their own budgets. We can't fix it. Can I smoke here? Can you help me?	Ability / Possibility Inability / Impossibility Asking for permission Request
Could	Could I borrow your dictionary? Could you say it again more slowly? We could try to fix it ourselves. I think we could have another Gulf War. He gave up his old job so he could work for us.	Asking for permission. Request Suggestion Future possibility Ability in the past
May	May I have another cup of coffee? China may become a major economic power.	Asking for permission Future possibility
Might	We'd better phone tomorrow, they might be eating their dinner now. They might give us a 10% discount.	Present possibility Future possibility
Must	We must say good-bye now. They mustn't disrupt the work more than necessary.	Necessity / Obligation Prohibition
Ought to	We ought to employ a professional writer.	Saying what's right or correct
Shall (More common in the UK than the US)	Shall I help you with your luggage? Shall we say 2.30 then? Shall I do that or will you?	Offer Suggestion Asking what to do
Should	We should sort out this problem at once. I think we should check everything again. Profits should increase next year.	Saying what's right or correct Recommending action Uncertain prediction

Will	I can't see any taxis so I'll walk.	Instant decisions
	I'll do that for you if you like.	Offer
	I'll get back to you first thing on Monday.	Promise
	Profits will increase next year.	Certain prediction
Would	Would you mind if I brought a colleague with me?	Asking for permission
	Would you pass the salt please?	Request
	Would you mind waiting a moment?	Request
	"Would three o'clock suit you?" - "That'd be fine."	Making arrangements
	Would you like to play golf this Friday?	Invitation
	"Would you prefer tea or coffee?" - "I'd like tea please."	Preferences

tunites