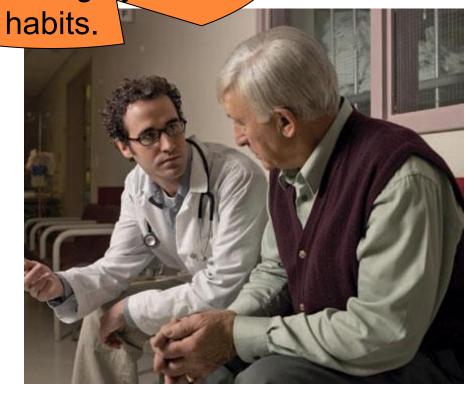
# Grammar Reference: Modal Verbs





If you want a healthier life, you must change your habits.



Modal Verbs are a type of auxiliary verb.

They are also called auxiliary verbs and are used with the main verb to form a statement or question.

After the modal verbs we always use the infinitive.

### Some MODAL VERBS in English are:

CAN COULD

MUST MA

SHOULD MIGHT

## CAN

Indicates POSSIBILITY or ABILITY.

Drinking too much alcohol can be dangerous to your health.

I can speak four languages fluently.

In questions, CAN asks for permission or about possibilities.

Can I go to the toilet?

Who can help me with my homework?

## COULD

Indicates POSSIBILITY or ABILITY in the PAST.

The accident **could** have killed you.

When I was a child, I couldn't play soccer very well.

COULD is also used to state hypothesis and make speculation.

If I had time, I could spend more time with my family.

In this case, he **could** be the victim.

# MUST

Indicates an OBLIGATION or PROHIBITION.

You **must** turn off your phones inside the classroom.

You **mustn't** smoke inside this building.

MUST is used to say that we are sure something is true.

You live downtown, right? Your house must be very noisy.

He must be very rich! Look at his expensive car.

# MAY & MIGHT

Indicate an UNCERTAIN ACTION.

I don't know where he is. He may (might) be in his office.

The shop may (might) give us a discount in the next purchase.

MAY can also be used to ask for permission in formal situations.

May I drink some water?

May I have another slice of pizza?

# SHOULD

Indicate suggestion or recommendation.

You should eat less if you want to lose weight.

You **should** study more. Your grades are not good.

SHOULD is also used to say what is correct in a situation or refer to an uncertain prediction.

The Police should arrest that man soon.

The price of the gas **should** increase in the next weeks.

#### AND YOU?

What couldn't you do when you were a child that you can do now?

In order to have a healthier life, what should you do less or more?

List some of the things you must and you mustn't do in your classroom.