



## Modals of Probability

# Modal Verbs of Probability

What is a modal verb?

Why is it different to a normal verb?

What are the verb patterns with a modal verb?

probability  
possibility

scale of possibility/probability

100%

---

100%

will  
won't

# Will

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	will	will not	won't
you	will	will not	won't
he / she / it	will	will not	won't
we	will	will not	won't
they	will	will not	won't



She'll be so happy to see you!



She won't be happy to see you!

100%

must  
mustn't

# Must

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	must	must not	mustn't
you	must	must not	mustn't
he / she / it	must	must not	mustn't
we	must	must not	mustn't
they	must	must not	mustn't



He got an A\* in his exam.

He must be very pleased.



He got an F in his exam. He  
mustn't be very pleased  
with that.

100%

can't

# Can

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	can	can not	can't
you	can	can not	can't
he / she / it	can	can not	can't
we	can	can not	can't
they	can	can not	can't



He has a meeting with me at 4pm  
so he can't be available for the  
presentation.

100%

should  
shouldn't  
ought to

# Should

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	should	should not	shouldn't
you	should	should not	shouldn't
he / she / it	should	should not	shouldn't
we	should	should not	shouldn't
they	should	should not	shouldn't

# Ought to

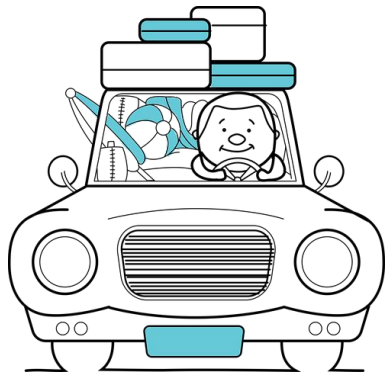
Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	ought to	ought not to	oughtn't to
you	ought to	ought not to	oughtn't to
he / she / it	ought to	ought not to	oughtn't to
we	ought to	ought not to	oughtn't to
they	ought to	ought not to	oughtn't to



The plane is scheduled to land at 5pm, it's now 4.48pm. The plane should land very soon.



The plane is scheduled to land at 5pm, it's now 4.48pm. The plane ought to land very soon.



The journey shouldn't take longer  
than 1 hour.

Should

There should be  
too many people

Will

There will be too  
many people

50%

100%

might  
may  
could  
might not  
may not

# Might

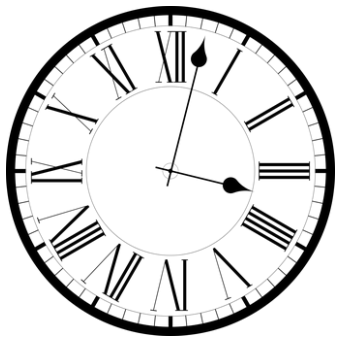
Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	might	might not	mightn't
you	might	might not	mightn't
he / she / it	might	might not	mightn't
we	might	might not	mightn't
they	might	might not	mightn't

# May

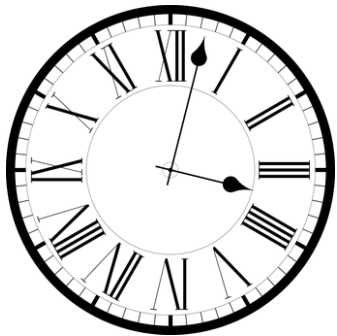
Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	may	may not	
you	may	may not	
he / she / it	may	may not	
we	may	may not	
they	may	may not	

# Could

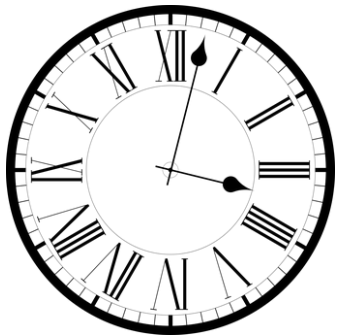
Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	could	could not	couldn't
you	could	could not	couldn't
he / she / it	could	could not	couldn't
we	could	could not	couldn't
they	could	could not	couldn't



We're running late but we might  
arrive on time!



We're running late but we may  
arrive on time!



We're running late but we could  
arrive on time!



I thought he said he lived on this street but he might not live here.



I thought he said he lived on this street but he may not live here.

100%

can

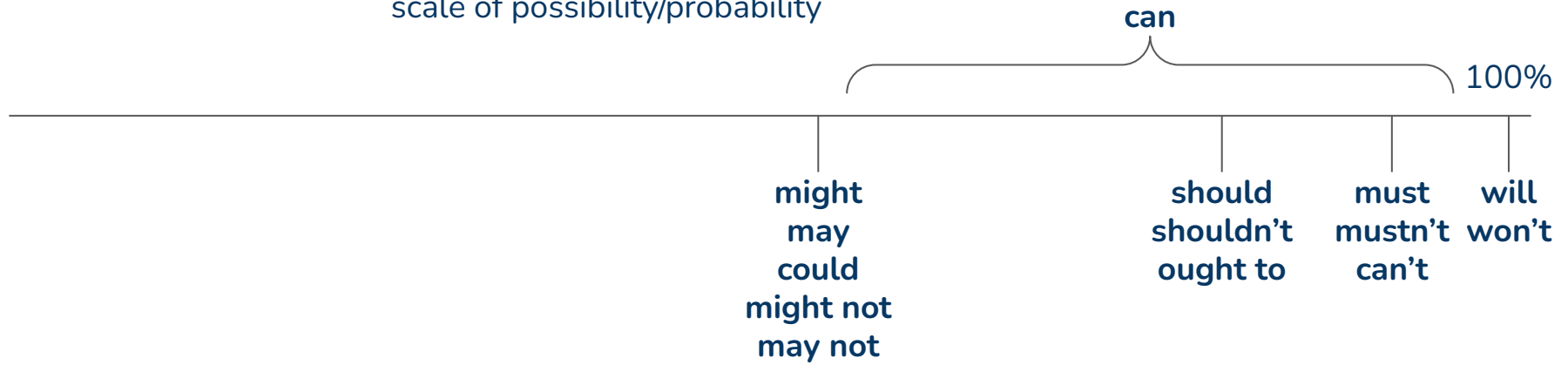
# Can

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Negative Contraction
I	can	can not	can't
you	can	can not	can't
he / she / it	can	can not	can't
we	can	can not	can't
they	can	can not	can't



It can be expensive to live in London

scale of possibility/probability





# Practice 1

Correct the following sentences.

They speak fluent French, they might be  
from France.

They speak fluent French, they might be from France.



They speak fluent French, they must be from France.

I don't know why she's not in the meeting. She must be unwell.

I don't know why she's not in the meeting. She must be unwell.



I don't know why she's not in the meeting. She might/may/could be unwell.

It's completely impossible to get 100%.  
That might be right!

It's completely impossible to get 100%.  
That might be right!



It's completely impossible to get  
100%. That can't be right!

She is absolutely soaking wet. It can't be raining outside.

She is absolutely soaking wet. It can't be raining outside.



She is absolutely soaking wet. It must be raining outside.

At the moment it's 50-50. I must pass  
the exam.

At the moment it's 50-50. I must pass the exam.



At the moment it's 50-50. I might/may/could pass the exam.

She's been smiling all day and singing around the house. She may be so happy to have you back home.

She's been smiling all day and singing around the house. She may be so happy to have you back home.



She's been smiling all day and singing around the house. She must/will be so happy to have you back home.

The train could arrive in the next few minutes, as scheduled.

The train could arrive in the next few minutes, as scheduled.



The train should/ought to arrive in the next few minutes, as scheduled.



# Practice 2

Rewrite the sentences to include a modal verb of probability

# Modals of Probability

She is 100% lost.

# Modals of Probability

She is 100% lost.

She must be lost.

# Modals of Probability

That phone is definitely not mine. I'm  
50% sure it is Sam's.

## Modals of Probability

That phone is definitely not mine. I'm 50% sure it is Sam's.

That phone is definitely not mine. It might/may/could be Sam's.

# Modals of Probability

There is absolutely no chance that this  
costs \$50!

# Modals of Probability

There is absolutely no chance that this  
costs \$50!

It can't cost \$50!

# Modals of Probability

Maybe it's Caroline's book?

# Modals of Probability

Maybe it's Caroline's book?

Might/may/could it be Caroline's book?

# Modals of Probability

It may be - It might be (possibility) ...

Maybe.

# Modals of Probability

Don't travel on the tube at rush hour.  
There are definitely too many people.

# Modals of Probability

Don't travel on the tube at rush hour.  
There are definitely too many people.

Don't travel on the tube at rush hour.  
There will be too many people.

# Modals of Probability

I'm not sure if I can finish all this cake!

# Modals of Probability

I'm not sure if I can finish all this cake!

I might not / may not finish all this cake!

# Modals of Probability

It is possible that you need 2 hours for  
the journey.

# Modals of Probability

It is possible that you need 2 hours for  
the journey.

You might/ may / could need 2 hours for  
the journey.

# Modals of Probability

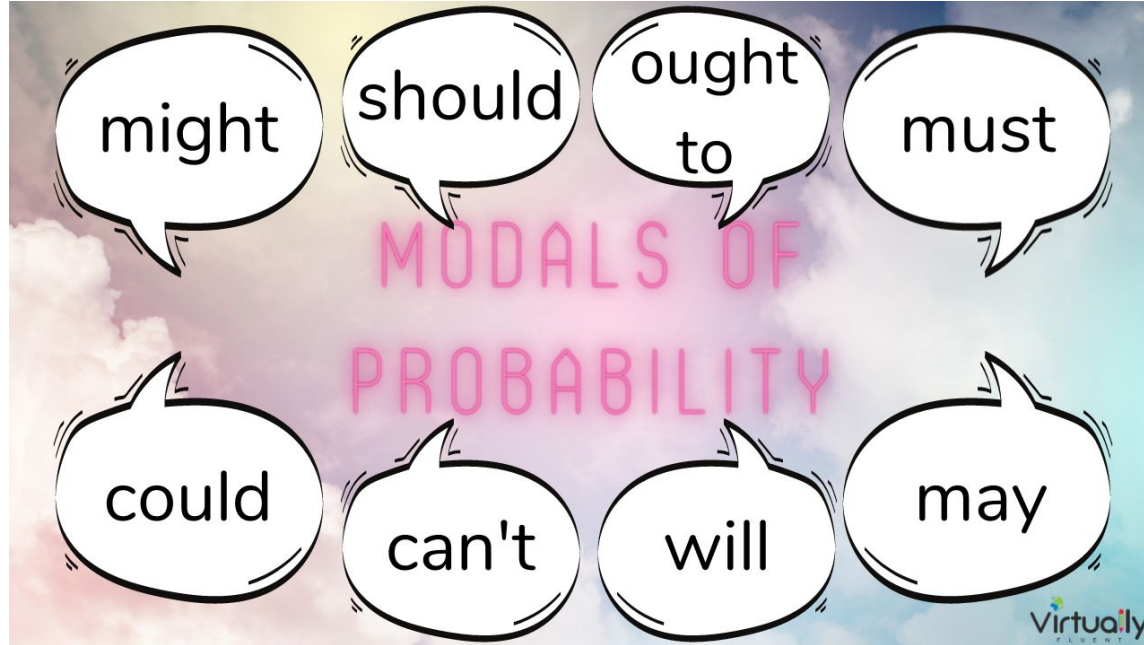
If the scores are correct it means there is a strong possibility that you are in second place.

# Modals of Probability

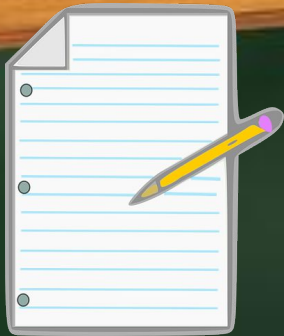
If the scores are correct it means there is a strong possibility that you are in second place.

If the scores are correct it means you should/ must be in second place.

# REVIEW



## Modals of Probability



# HOMEWORK

## COMPLETE THE QUIZ

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/quizzes/modals-of-probability-quiz/>