Modal Verb

•Can · Could · May · Might · Must · Shall · Should ·

Ought to \ Will \ Would

Can

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
CAN		They can control their own budgets.	Ability / Possibility
		We can't fix it.	Inability / Impossibility
		Can I smoke here?	Asking for permission
		Can you help me?	Request

Could

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
Could		Could I borrow your dictionary?	Asking for permission.
		Could you say it again more slowly?	Request
		We could try to fix it ourselves.	Suggestion
		I think we could have another Gulf War.	Suggestion
		He gave up his old job so he could work for us.	Ability in the past

May

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
May		May I have another cup of coffee?	Asking for permission
		China may become a major economic power.	Future possibility

Might

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
Might		We'd better phone tomorrow, they might be eating their dinner now.	Present possibility
		They might give us a 10% discount.	Future possibility

Must

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
Must		We must say good- bye now.	Necessity / Obligation
		They mustn't disrupt the work more than necessary.	Prohibition

Ought to

Modal Verb	Example	Uses
Ought to	We ought to employ a	Saying what's
	professional writer.	right or correct

Shall

Modal Verb	Example	Uses
Shall (More	Shall I help you with	Offer
common in	your luggage?	
the UK than		
the US)		
	Shall we say 2.30 then?	Suggestion
	Shall I do that or will	Asking what to
	you?	do

Should

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
Should		We should sort out this problem at once.	Saying what's right or correct
		I think we should check everything again.	Recommending action
		Profits should increase next year.	Uncertain prediction

Will

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
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

Modal	Verb	Example	Uses
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