

Application and Reasoning

Step 2: Modal Verbs

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (5G4.1c) [Using modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility](#)

English Year 6: (5G4.1c) [Indicating degrees of possibility using modal verbs \[for example, might, should, will, must\]](#)

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Application)

Developing Sort four sentences containing modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability. Word bank provided.

Expected Sort five sentences containing modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability.

Greater Depth Create and sort own sentences containing given modal verbs relating to certainty, possibility, obligation and ability.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain reasons for placing three modal verbs on a scale based on strength of meaning. Obvious differences.

Expected Explain reasons for placing four modal verbs on a scale based on strength of meaning.

Greater Depth Explain reasons for placing five modal verbs on a scale based on strength of meaning. Less obvious differences.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain choice of modal verb to complete two sentences. Word bank provided.

Expected Explain choice of modal verb to complete two sentences.

Greater Depth Explain choice of modal verb to complete three sentences.

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Application and Reasoning – Modal Verbs

1a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- I will carry that box for you.
- We might win the lottery.
- I shall have a bath today.
- It may hurt.



A

1a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability

- I can ride a horse.
- I should read my book.
- I must have a bath today.
- I could do it too.



A

2a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.

Strong  Weak

might

could

shall



R

2b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.

Strong  Weak

should

must

may



R

3a. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I (might/will/must) make new friends next year.
- I (will/could/must) fly on a plane next year.



R

3b. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I (might/will/ought to) travel to America.
- I (shall/should/might) be going to the cinema soon.



R

Application and Reasoning – Modal Verbs

4a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- It will rain tomorrow.
- She might have missed her bus.
- I said I would.
- I shall brush my teeth tonight.
- I may reach my target soon.



A

4a. Sort the sentences below into the correct place on the table.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability

- We should ask mum.
- We can go to the zoo today.
- I ought to tidy my room first.
- I must take the dog for a walk.
- I could go to the shops for you.



A

5a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.

Strong

Weak



might

should

could

will



R

5b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below based on strength of meaning. Explain your choice.

Strong

Weak



must

would

ought to

may



R

6a. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I _____ become a celebrity one day.
- I _____ wash my hair tomorrow.



R

6b. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I _____ learn to drive a car.
- I _____ be a parent when I'm older.



R

Application and Reasoning – Modal Verbs

7a. Write your own sentences to place on the table using the modal verbs below.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility

- might
- will
- would
- may
- shall



A

7a. Write your own sentences to place on the table using the modal verbs below.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability

- should
- could
- can
- ought
- must



A

8a. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below. Explain your choices.

Strong Weak



ought to may
would should
 must



R

8b. Decide where these modal verbs should go on the scale below. Explain your choices.

Strong Weak



could will
shall might can



R

9a. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I _____ fly into space when I'm older.
- I _____ be respectful to my parents.
- I _____ enjoy myself at the weekends.



R

9b. Choose a modal verb to complete the sentences below. Explain each choice.

- I _____ become a millionaire.
- I _____ work hard at school.
- I _____ be a gifted mathematician.



R

Application and Reasoning – Modal Verbs

Developing

1a.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will carry that box for you.• I shall have a bath today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We might win the lottery.• It may hurt.

1b.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I should read my book.• I must have a bath today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can ride a horse.• I could do it too.

2a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: shall, could, might – ‘shall’ is used to show determination; ‘could’ is used to show possibility; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.

2b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: must, should, may – ‘must’ is used to show a strong obligation; ‘should’ is used to show obligation; ‘may’ is used to express a possibility.

3a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I will make new friends next year. ‘Will’ shows a determination to make new friends when moving to high school perhaps.

3b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I might travel to America. ‘Might’ shows a small possibility of travelling to America and indicates that no actual plans have been made.

Expected

4a.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will rain tomorrow.• I said I would.• I shall brush my teeth tonight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• She might have missed her bus.• I may reach my target soon.

4b.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We should ask mum.• I ought to tidy my room first.• I must take the dog for a walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can go to the zoo today.• I could go to the shops for you.

5a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: will, should, could, might – ‘will’ is used to show determination; ‘should’ is used to show obligation; ‘could’ is used to show possibility; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.

5b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: must, ought to, may, would – ‘must’ is used to show strong obligation; ‘ought to’ is used to show a sense of obligation; ‘may’ is used to ask permission or show a possibility; ‘would’ is used to express a polite question.

6a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I might become a celebrity one day. The word ‘might’ shows a small possibility of this happening.

6b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I will learn to drive a car. The word ‘will’ shows determination to make this event happen.

Greater Depth

7a. To include own sentences.

Modal verb suggests certainty	Modal verb suggests possibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will• shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• might• would• may

7b. To include own sentences.

Modal verb suggests obligation	Modal verb suggests ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• should• ought to• must	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can• could

8a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: must, should, ought to, may, would – ‘must’ is used to show strong obligation; ‘should’ is used to express obligation; ‘ought to’ is used to express a sense of obligation; ‘may’ is used to ask permission or show a possibility; ‘would’ is used express a polite question.

8b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: will, shall, can, could, might – ‘will’ is used to show strong determination; ‘shall’ is used to show determination; ‘can’ is used to express an ability to do something; ‘could’ is used to show a possibility and ability; ‘might’ is used to show a small possibility.

9a. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I could fly into space when I’m older. ‘Could’ indicates that there is a possibility that this might happen.

9b. No incorrect answers but must be explained. For example: I might become a millionaire. ‘Might’ indicates that there is a small possibility that this might happen.