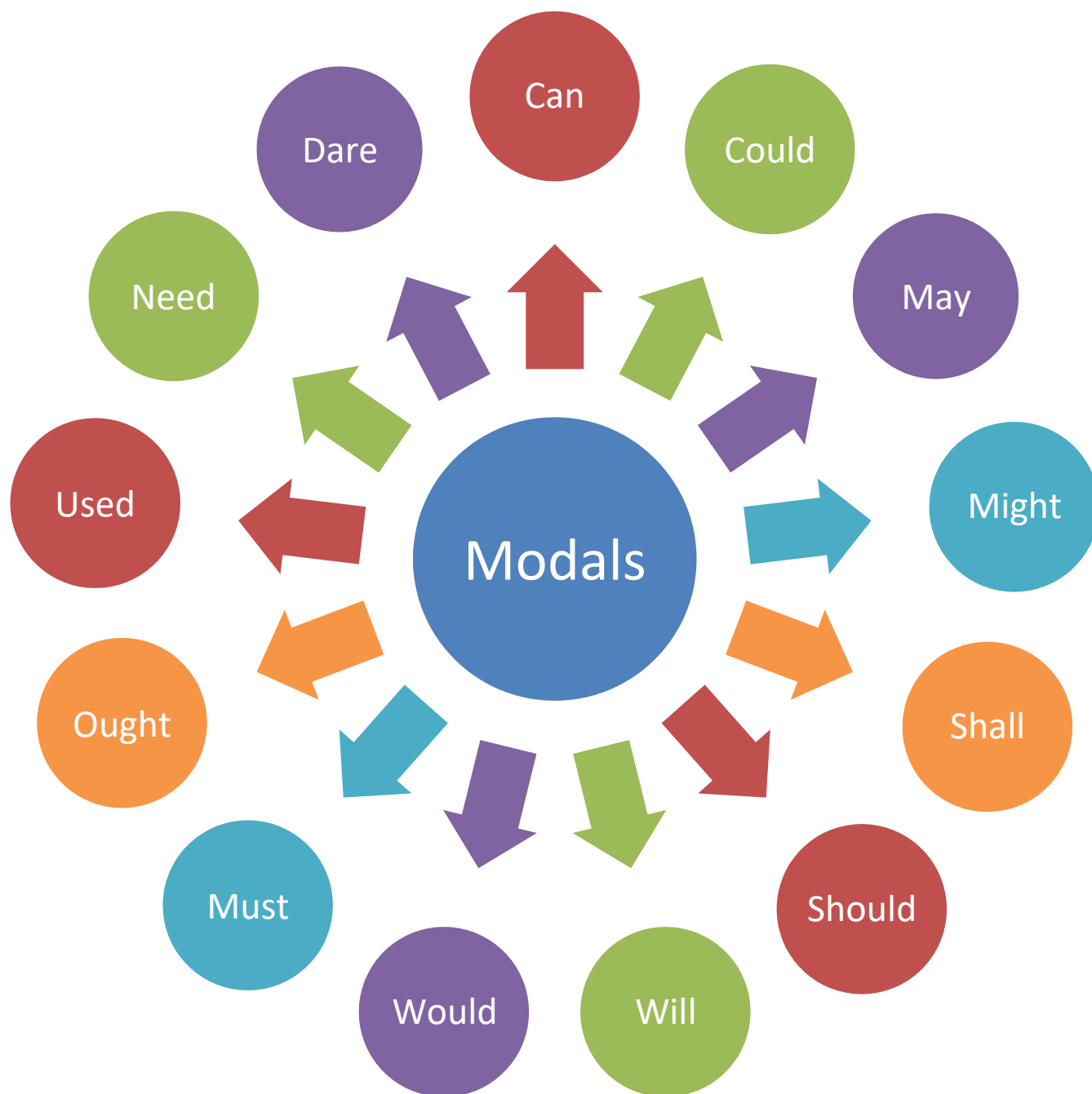


ENGLISH

MODAL AUXILIARIES

What are Modals?

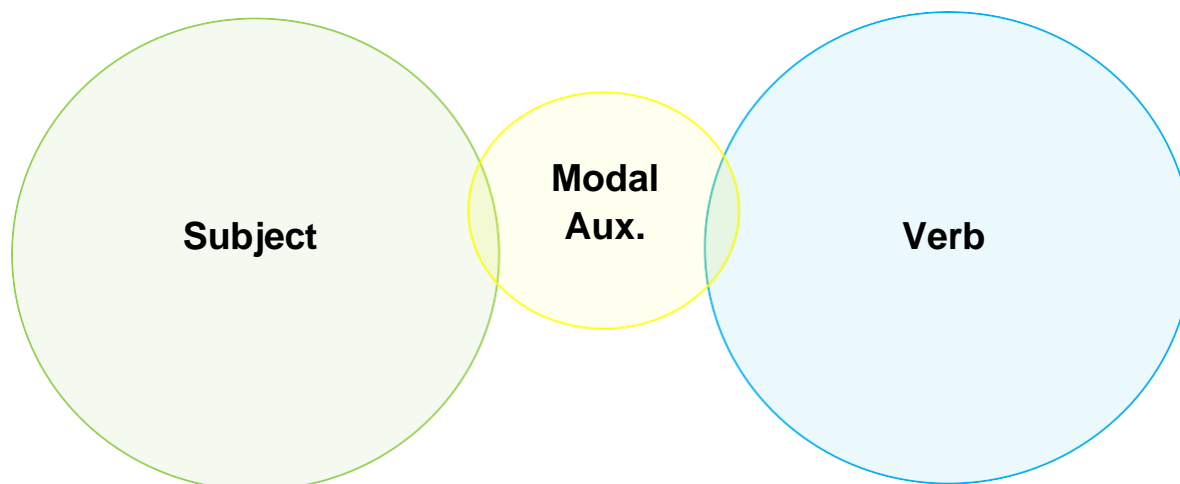
Modal auxiliaries are helping verbs which are used to indicate modality (likelihood, ability, permission, certainty and obligation). They give information about the tense and function of the main verb in the sentence. They exist only in relation to the main verbs, without which, they make little sense in the sentence.



Characteristics of Modals

How are Modals Used?

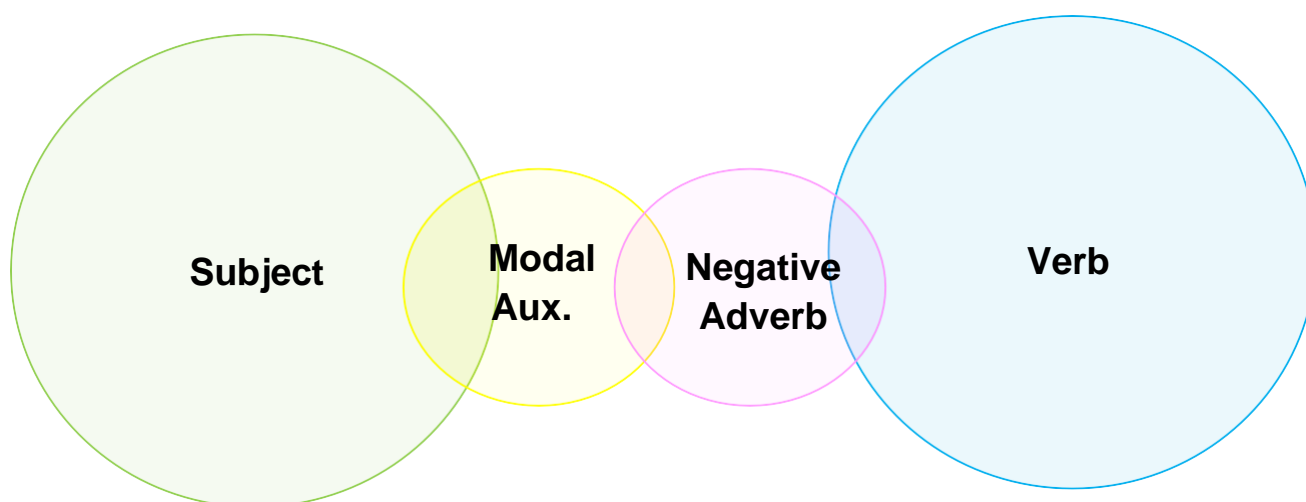
In affirmative sentences, the modal auxiliary is placed between the subject and the main verb.



They must call the authorities.

The students ought to bring their own materials.

In negative sentences, the modal auxiliary is placed between the subject and the negative adverb.



You should **not** procrastinate.

It may **not** rain today.

Rules of Modals

- They do not agree in number with the subject except for the modals 'need' and 'dare'.

She needs to go.	She can go.
They need to go.	They can go.

- With the exception of 'ought', 'need' and 'dare', the modal auxiliaries are followed by infinitive forms of verbs without the preposition 'to'.

She needs to listen.	Do you dare to dream?
I can help.	Rishab ought to study.

The modal auxiliary 'ought' + 'to' is used to duty, necessity, fitness, and moral obligation.

The modal auxiliary 'need' + 'to' is used to show requirement.

The verb 'dare' when followed by 'to' becomes a modal auxiliary and is used to show a challenge.

- They have no non-finite forms ('-en', '-ed' or '-ing' forms).
- All tense forms are not represented by the modal auxiliary.

Types of Modals

There are three types of modal auxiliaries:

- Single concept modals – having just one meaning
- Double concept modals – having two meanings
- Past modals – modals in the past tense

Single Concept Modals	Double Concept Modals	Past Modals
Will	May	Would have
Might	Must	Could have
Should	Would	Might have
Ought to	Shall	Should have
Had better	Can	May have
	Could	Must have

Single Concept Modals

Modal	Meaning	Usage
Will	Future	I will buy a new car.
Might	Diminished possibility (more unlikely than likely)	It might rain today.
Should	Advice, Suggestion	Ranjit should practise daily.
Ought to	Obligation	You ought to help in times of need.
Had better	Advice, warning	He had better leave if he wants to catch the 5 pm bus.

Double Concept Modals

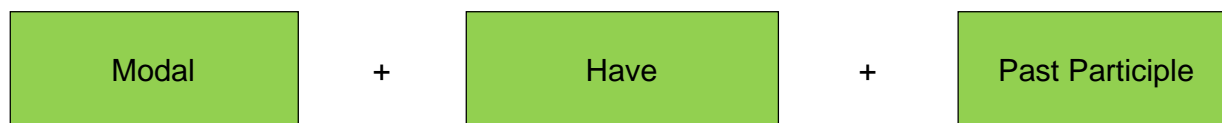
Modal	Meaning	Usage
May	Permission	May I borrow your car?
	Increased possibility (more likely than unlikely)	It may rain today.
Must	Compulsion	You must complete the work.
	Assumption	Mahesh is absent today. He must be sick.
Would	Past habit (used to)	Mother would send her children to school.
	Future possibility	They would visit us some day.
Shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to 'will' Used with first person pronouns 	I shall call you tonight.
	Polite expression	Shall I help you?
		Shall I take leave?

Modal	Meaning	Usage
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Could	Past ability	Tushar could eat 10 rotis at a time.
	Present probability (unsure)	It could move if we all pushed hard.
Can	Present ability	Gavin can help you with your homework.
	Permission	Can I try one of these?

Past Modals

- These modals help to refer to actions which took place in the past.
- The structure of such sentences is as follows:



You should have asked for help.

They ought to have informed us.

Modal	Meaning	Usage
Must have	Assumption	He must have forgotten about us.
May/might have	Guessing/speculating	Raj may have bought these oranges.
Could have	Possibility (likely not to have been fulfilled)	Yash could have apprised us of the matter.
Would have	Possibility	The guests would have left.
Should have/ought to have	Hypothetical situation which may have been ideal	He ought to have helped you.

