**Modal verbs**

A **modal verb** is a special type of **verb**. **Modal verbs** change or affect other **verbs** in a sentence

The modal verbs include ***can / could, may / might, will / would, shall / should, must / ought*.**

They are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission.

**Modal verbs** behave differently to 'ordinary' **verbs**.

Below is a list showing the most useful modals and their most common meanings:

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| **Modal** | **Meaning** | **Example** |
| can | *to express ability* | I *can* speak a little Russian. |
| can | *to request permission* | *Can* I open the window? |
| may | *to express possibility* | I *may* be home late. |
| may | *to request permission* | *May* I sit down, please? |
| must | *to express obligation* | I *must* go now. |
| must | *to express strong belief* | She *must* be over 90 years old. |
| should | *to give advice* | You *should* stop smoking. |
| would | *to request or offer* | *Would* you like a cup of tea? |
| would | *in if-sentences* | If I were you, I *would* say sorry. |