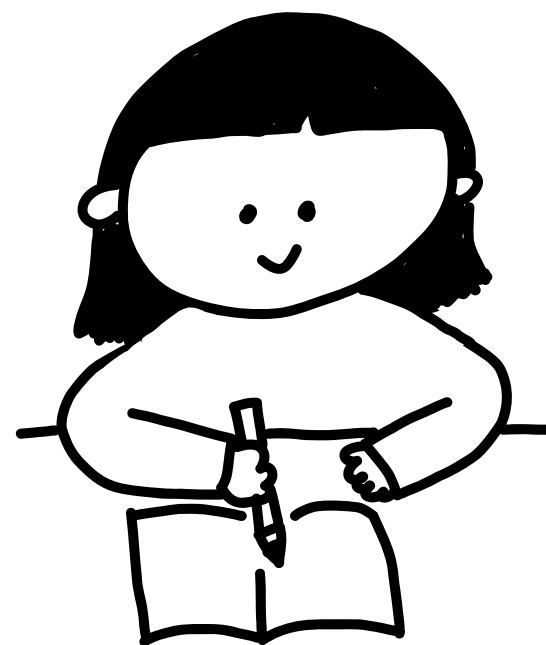


How To Use



Modal Verbs

Modal Verbs

A modal is a type of helping verb that is used to express ability, possibility, permission or obligation.



**could/
may/
might**

To say something is possible, but not certain.

She **could** cook dinner for the whole family.
She **may** not cook anything, as she feels tired.
She **might** cook dinner for the whole family,
since she has a free time.



can't

To say something is impossible

She **can't** stop playing with her new toys.



must

To show we know something is true (and there are reasons for this suggestion).

He **must** have been really hungry because he has not eaten anything since this morning.



should

To talk about what is the ideal or best thing to do in a situation, give advice, and suggestions

You **should** study really hard for the upcoming exam if you want to pass.



have to

When we talk about obligations (things we have no choice about doing).

We **have to** exercise regularly to lead a healthy and active lifestyles.



need to

When we talk about things that are necessary to do in order to achieve a goal.

We **needed to** get our passport done to travel to China next week.

ABC

would rather

To show preference for one thing over
another thing.

I **would rather** stay home and do my homework
than go to the grocery store with my family.





had better

To talk about actions we think people should do or which are desirable in a specific situation.

You **had better** practice your painting a lot before going to that art competition.



ought to

To express recommendation, obligation or give advice. 'Ought to' is more formal than 'should.'



You **ought to** establish a consistent sleep schedule to improve your sleep quality.