

# MODAL VERBS



# WHAT ARE MODAL VERBS?

- Modals: They are verbs that talk about ability, possibility or permission.
- In this lesson we will discuss modals of speculation.
- We use this type of modals to give our opinion on something.



# CAN – CAN' T

It is used to:

★ Express ability / inability in the present

E.g. They can / Can't run very fast.

★ Ask / give / refuse permission

E.g. Can I borrow your pencil?

-Yes, you can. / No, you can't.



# COULD – COULDN'T

It is used to:

★ Express ability / inability in the past

E.g. They could / couldn't bark very loud when they were puppies.

★ Ask permission politely/Make polite requests

E.g. Could I sit here, please?

E.g. Could I have some more food, please?



# MAY – MAY NOT

It is used to:

★ Express possibility

E.g. They may bite you.

★ Ask / give / refuse permission (formal)

E.g. May I have a snack?

-Yes, you may. No, you may not.



# MIGHT – MIGHT NOT

★ Might is used to refer to something that is perhaps true.

E.g. I did not study very hard, I might fail the exam.

★ Might not is used to express the fact that this thing is perhaps untrue.

E.g. Dina might not be at home



# MUST – MUSTN' T

It is used to:

★ Must – Express obligation

E.g. They must go home.

★ Mustn't – Express prohibition

E.g. They mustn't live in here.



# Should – Shouldn't

It is used to:

★ Should – Advice

E.g. You should eat healthy food.

★ Shouldn't – Advice

E.g. You shouldn't stay up late.





# Need – Needn't

It is used to:

★ Need – Obligation

E.g. You need to study well.

★ Needn't – prohibition

E.g. You needn't go out at night.



When you're **not**  
**sure**

**Might**

**May**

**Could**



When you are **sure**  
something is  
possible or true

**Must**

When you are sure  
something is **NOT**  
possible or true

**Can't**

