

## MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS

Modal auxiliary verbs are used together with the infinitive of the verb to modify its meaning.

Some general rules for modal verbs are:

- a) they are followed by a verb without *to*: *I can act.*
- b) there is no *-s* in the third person: *He can act.*
- c) the negative is formed by adding *not*: *He cannot/can't act.*
- d) the interrogative is formed by inverting modal verb and subject: *Can you act?*
- e) some modal verbs are defective and refer only to the present and future, so that past and sometimes future tenses are supplied by other verb forms: *I can act* → *I have been able to act since I was fifteen.*
- f) They have irregular forms for the past: *can* → *could*    *have to* → *had to*
- g) Modal verbs are also used in question tags: *He can act, can't he?*

**CAN** (to be able to)

ability: *He can remember all his lines after one reading of the script.*

generic possibility: *Children can often act when they are very young.*

permission (informal): *Can we attend the lesson?*

negative deduction: *It can't be James Dean - he's dead!*

prohibition (in the negative) : *You can't go on the stage now.*

request: *Can you help me?*

**COULD** (was/were able to)

general past ability: *She could dance when she was five.*

specific past ability: *They were able to move all the props in one hour.*

conditional possibility: *This is interesting - it could be a fragment of an ancient script.*

request: *Could you help me?*

**MAY** (to be allowed to)

permission (formal): *You may leave the room.*

real possibility: *He may come later but he isn't sure.*

**MIGHT**

permission: *Might I possibly ask you something?*

more remote possibility: *He might come later but we really doubt this.*

**MUST/TO HAVE TO**

intrinsic necessity: *You must read the script.*

external necessity: *Students have to enrol by September.*  
 past necessity: *They had to make some important decisions.*  
 no necessity (also NEEDN'T): *Children don't have to/needn't wear school uniform in Italy.*  
 deduction: *They must be out. There's no one in the house.*  
 (See Unit 13 for more on *must* and *to have to*).

MUSTN'T is a strong form of prohibition (like CANNOT and NOT ALLOWED TO): *You mustn't walk on that old stage - it's not safe!*

### SHOULD and OUGHT TO

mild obligation or advice: *He should/ought to see a doctor.*  
 probability: *He should be better tomorrow.*

### WILL

future fact: *He will arrive by train tomorrow.*  
 future intention: *I will definitely phone you tomorrow.*  
 habitual action to be expected for the future: *He will shout at all hours!*

### WOULD

condition: *If I went to drama school, I would learn a lot about acting.* (See Unit 13)  
 request: *Would you mind helping me carry these bags?*  
 offers and invitations: *Would you like to come to the theatre this evening?*

## Exercise 6

Put an appropriate modal verb from those above in each sentence.

- 1) The Method is a way that \_\_\_\_\_ be practised, monitored and corrected.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ you open your books at page 30, please.
- 3) He \_\_\_\_\_ be tired after that long performance.
- 4) With the Method the actor \_\_\_\_\_ reproduce a credible reality.
- 5) If an actor wants to feel worried, he \_\_\_\_\_ think about something that worried him.
- 6) I don't know where he is—he \_\_\_\_\_ be delayed in the traffic.
- 7) People \_\_\_\_\_ park outside the theatre.

*approximately* → *It spends approximately £106m a year.*

Other words for approximation are:

*or so* → *There are 1 million or so archaeological sites of all types.*

*about* → *The list has about 30,000 sites.*

*more or less* → *There are more or less 200 classes of monuments.*

*countless* → *Countless hours have been spent on the project.*

The prepositional verb *look after* means 'take care of'. Other forms with *look* are:

*look for* → seek, search

*look up* → look for something in a list, consult a list

*look on* → consider

## WORD STUDY

The suffix *-age* can describe a process or action: *breakage, marriage*. It can refer to a state or condition: *heritage, courage*. It can refer to a collection or set: *luggage, baggage*.

### Exercise 1

With each of the following words below write a sentence.

1) *image*

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2) *package*

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3) *storage*

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4) *wastage*

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5) *marriage*

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## GRAMMAR REVIEW

### FUTURE TIME

English does not have a single future tense. There are many different ways of referring to the future.

### SIMPLE FUTURE WILL - SHALL

**Form:** *Will* and *shall* + infinitive of verbs without *to*.

**WILL** (*will not* or *won't*)

**Function:** This is the form generally preferred in formal, written English to talk about arranged events or to make predictions: *The National Trust will open the Abbey Mill in 2001. The interpretation of the mill will reflect all its uses throughout its history.*

*Will* is often used for personal predictions after verbs such as *think, expect, hope*: *The National Trust thinks that the Mill will be a great success.*

**SHALL** (*shall not* or *shan't*)

This is a less common form and is used in the first person singular or plural: *I shall now talk about internal renovation. We shall see what can be done.*

*Shall* can also be used:

a) in the second and third person to express a promise: *You shall go to the ball.*

b) to express a command, rule or regulation:

*No process of repair shall be allowed to remove in any way the document's value as evidence.* (See Unit 13 for use of *shall* in rules).

*Shall* can also express a strong intention in the first person singular or plural: *We shall fight for our rights.*

Both *will* and *shall* can also be used in informal, spoken English with different functions. *Will* is used for instant decisions made at the moment of speaking: *The phone is ringing. I'll answer it.* *Shall* is used for suggestions and offers: *Shall I help you?*

## FUTURE CONTINUOUS

**Form:** *will + be + -ing* form.

**Function:** It is used for a progressive action in the future: *What will you be doing at this time tomorrow?*

## FUTURE PERFECT

**Form:** *will + have + past participle.*

**Function:** This is used for an action that will be completed in the future: *By the end of the year they will have completed the restoration.*

## BE GOING TO

*Be going to + verb* is a less formal way of referring to the future. It is used to refer to intention: *He's going to start the excavation tomorrow.*

It is also used to express a previous intention: "*The phone is ringing*". – "*Yes, I know but I'm not going to answer it!*"

*Be going to* is also used for prediction of an event that is about to happen on the basis of something we observe now: *It looks as though it's going to rain.*

With the verb *go* and *come*, *going to* is generally omitted:  
*He's going home tomorrow.*

The past form *was/were going to* is used for past intention. The action may even not have happened: *I was going to phone you, but I changed my mind and went out.*

The Present Continuous can be used to express a future arrangement with a future time expression, but can only be used with dynamic verbs:  
*They are meeting her tomorrow. He is leaving next week.*

The Simple Present can also be used to express a planned future action or programme:  
*The train leaves at 6 o'clock.*

## Exercise 2

Use *will*, *shall* or *to be going to* in the following sentences. More than one solution is possible in some sentences.

- 1) The Trust hopes that visitors \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy the historic houses and gardens.
- 2) The volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ start coppicing next week.
- 3) Members of the Trust \_\_\_\_\_ be notified of the meeting.
- 4) The grounds of the castle \_\_\_\_\_ be open from dusk to dawn tomorrow.
- 5) Supporters of the Trust \_\_\_\_\_ donate £10, 000.
- 6) Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ start working on the wall tomorrow.
- 7) They \_\_\_\_\_ restore the turbine.
- 8) The bridge looks as though it \_\_\_\_\_ collapse.

**FUTURE TIME CLAUSES**

The Simple Present, Present Continuous or Present Perfect are used in time clauses to express a future meaning. Some conjunctions used in the subordinate clauses are: *if, unless, as soon as, until, before, when, after*.

*I'll call you when I am ready. After I have finished this job, I'll see you.*

**Exercise 3**

Use the correct form of the verb in brackets in the following sentences.

- 1) They \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the house when they \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) cleaning it.
- 2) As soon as they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the money they \_\_\_\_\_ (restore) the fireplace.
- 3) They \_\_\_\_\_ (repair) the bridge if it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) not too expensive.
- 4) They \_\_\_\_\_ (tackle) soil erosion before they \_\_\_\_\_ (start) building.
- 5) Unless they \_\_\_\_\_ (install) a lift, disabled visitors \_\_\_\_\_ (not come).
- 6) They \_\_\_\_\_ (not charge) the visitors when they \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive).
- 7) The visitors \_\_\_\_\_ (take) photographs when they \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the castle.
- 8) They \_\_\_\_\_ (put) new electric wiring when they \_\_\_\_\_ (stabilise) the structure.

**FURTHER READING****ENGLISH HERITAGE**

*English Heritage is the national body created by Parliament in 1984 charged with the protection of the historic environment.*