

**: STRUCTURE :**

- 14.0 Objectives
- 14.1 Introduction
- 14.2 Modal Auxiliaries
  - 14.2.1 Shall
  - 14.2.2 Will
  - 14.2.3 Should
  - 14.2.4 Would
  - 14.2.5 Can
  - 14.2.6 Could
  - 14.2.7 May
  - 14.2.8 Might
  - 14.2.9 Must
  - 14.2.10 Ought
  - 14.2.11 Need
  - 14.2.12 Dare
- 14.3 Let Us Sum up
- 14.4 Key Words
- 14.5 Books Suggested

**Answers**

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**14.0 OBJECTIVES**

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In this unit we shall

- Receive instructions using modals.
- Differentiate between the models used for possibility, obligation and necessity by identifying these types of modals in the language around us.
- Demonstrate an ability to reason deductively using modal forms.

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**14.1 INTRODUCTION**

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Shall, Should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought, need, dare are called modal auxiliaries. These are also termed as defective verbs, because some parts are lacking in them. They have no-s in the third person singular; they have no infinitive and *ing* forms. These modal auxiliaries have three common characteristics.

1. They are never used alone. A principal verb is either present or implied.
  - I can fly a plane.
  - He should learn swimming.

2. The modal auxiliaries have a single form through the present tense, whatever be the person.
  - I can swim.
  - He can swim.
3. The modal auxiliaries do not have the infinitive or participle forms.  
**You cannot say:** to shall, to must, to may, etc.

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## **14.2 MODAL AUXILIARIES**

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Let us try to understand the usage of different modal auxiliaries.

### **14.2.1 Shall**

- With the first person:

1. I shall leave for Calcutta tomorrow.
2. We shall discuss the matter with the principal.
3. We shall invite them to dinner.

Here, shall expresses the strong possibility or near certainty of an action or event which is to take place in the future.

- With the second and third person:

1. Shall in the second and third persons may express a command.
  - Thou shall not steal.
  - You shall go at once.
2. Sometimes it is used to make promise.
  - He shall be given a present if he passes this year.
  - You shall get a medal if you stand first.
3. It is also used to express a threat.
  - You shall regret this.
  - They shall pay for this in due course.
4. It sometimes expresses determination.
  - You shall apologise.
  - You shall obey me, as long as you work here.

### **14.2.2 Will**

- With the first person:

Will expresses determination on the part of the speaker, or a promise, threat or willingness.

1. Determination:
  - I will do it, whatever happens.
  - We will not surrender.
2. Promise:
  - I will do whatever I can do to help you.
  - I will try to get you a job in bank.
3. Threat:
  - I will teach him a lesson.
  - We will dismiss you from service.

4. Willingness:
  - All right, I will come with you.
  - We will attend the meeting.
    - With the second and third person:
      - The train will leave at 7:30 P.M.
      - I am sure you will pass this time.

Here, will expresses simple future. The action or event which is almost certain to take place.

**Note:**The distinction between shall and will have been breaking down to some extent and are now strictly observed only by precise speakers. Shall has been steadily losing ground in the second and third persons. In the first person, shall is still being used to indicate the simple future.

### 14.2.3 Should

1. Should is the past tense of shall and is used as such in Indirect speech.
  - The captain said that players should assemble at college at 4 P.M.
2. Should expresses duty or obligation in all the three persons.
  - I should not be unfair to him.
  - We should have given him a helping hand.
3. Should is used in conditional clauses expressing possibilities, suppositions, etc.
  - If he should come, ask him to wait.
  - Should it rain, there will be no panic.
4. Should express less possibility than shall.
  - I should be happy to meet Raj.
5. Should is used in main clauses which are preceded or followed by a clause expressing unreal conditions.
  - If I were you, I should accept the post.
  - No, Hari, I shouldn't do that, if I were you.
6. Should is the only Auxiliary that may be used after lest.
  - Watch and pray lest you should fall into temptation.
  - The police surrounded the house lest the criminal should escape.
7. Should is also used in the expression 'should like to' which is a polite form of making a statement.
  - I should like to congratulate the speakers on the high level of the debate we have had.
8. Should also express possibility or likelihood.
  - I should be able to beat him.
  - You should be able to finish this work in time.

### 14.2.4 Would

1. Would is the past tense of will and is used as such in Indirect speech.
  - The manager said that the office would be closed on Friday.

2. Would express willingness.
  - The doctor said he would visit the patient.
  - He said he would try his best to help me.
3. Would express a customary action in the past.
  - After dinner the students would sit in the common room and chat for a while.
4. Would and would like to express a wish.
  - I would know what my duty is.
  - I would like to know what my duty is.
5. Would rather express choice or preference.
  - I would rather read a novel than see that useless picture.
  - She would rather die than marry him.
6. Would is used for asking polite questions.
  - Would you like a cup of coffee?
  - Would you, please, call me a taxi?
7. Would is used in the main clause, when preceded or followed by a subordinate clause expressing an impossible or improbable condition.
  - If I were a king, I would make you my queen.

#### **14.2.5 Can**

1. Can express ability.
  - He can run a mile in four minutes.
  - She can play tennis very well.
2. Can is also used in the sense of may to give permission, though may is more correct.
  - You can take one of those books, if you like.
  - You can go now.

#### **14.2.6 Could**

1. Could is the past tense of can and is used to indicate ability that existed in the past.
  - In my younger days I could run four miles at a stretch.
  - Why couldn't you attend the meeting yesterday?
2. Could is used as the past tense of can in Indirect speech.
  - She said that she couldn't climb up the hill.
3. Could is used to express possibility, or uncertainty or something dependent on unreal conditions.
  - You could do it, if you tried hard.
4. Could is also used to ask polite questions.
  - Could I have a word with you?
  - Could you, please, take me to the principal?

### 14.2.7 May

1. May is used to express permission.
  - May I come in, please?
  - May I go home now?
2. May is also used to express possibility.
  - She may agree or she may not.
  - The war may come to an end soon.
3. May is used for expressing wish.
  - May his soul rest in peace.
  - May God bless you!
4. May is used in subordinate clauses that express purpose.
  - Eat that you may live, don't live that you may eat.

### 14.2.8 Might

1. Might is the past tense of may and is used as such in Indirect speech.
  - He said that he might stand for election to the assembly.
2. Might is used to indicate a more doubtful possibility than may.
  - I might pass.
  - The patient might recover.
3. Might is used when you want to be extremely polite during a discussion or when you wish to express gentle reproach or admonition.
  - If I might interrupt you for a moment, Sir, how is this new scheme going to help restore normalcy?

### 14.2.9 Must

Must remain unchanged, or uninflected in form, whatever be its tense or the number and person of the subject. It can point to the present or future. It can refer to the past only when it is with the present perfect of the principal verb.

- He must have gone home.
  - We must be loyal to our country.
1. Must express compulsion or strong obligation or duty. It is much stronger than should.
    - He must apologise for his mistake.
    - We must be loyal to our country.
  2. It expresses necessity.
    - We must get up early and start on our way.
  3. It expresses probability or likelihood.
    - He must be mad to do this.
    - That must have been a shooting star.
  4. It signifies strong determination.
    - I must go to Kashmir in the summer, whatever happens.

### 14.2.10 Ought

Ought was originally the past tense of owe; but now it generally points to present and future time. It differs from other auxiliaries in being followed by the to-form of the infinitive and not the simple form. Ought is not as forceful as must, but is stronger than should. Ought to express duty, necessity, fitness, moral obligation, etc.

- They ought to help him.
- He ought to attend office regularly.
- You ought to obey your parent.

When ought to refers to past time, it is followed by the perfect infinitive.

- He ought to have helped him.
- We have done things which we ought not to have done.

### 14.2.11 Need

1. Need is used both as a principal verb and as an auxiliary. As a principal verb it is used in the sense of requirement.
  - He needs my help.
  - We need two more players for the team.
2. But as an auxiliary need is uninflected and is commonly used with not.
  - He need not ask my permission.
  - You need not mention this to anyone else.
3. Sometimes it is used with hardly.
  - I need hardly say that I am very grateful.
4. It can be used with only.
  - He need only say what he wants.
5. Need is usually used in questions without not.
  - Need he wait any longer?
  - Need I come again?
6. Need without not is also used in the following kinds of statements.
  - You need pay only RS. 50/- as the first installment.
  - I don't think we need copy all these figures.
7. When referring to past time, need is followed by the perfect infinitive.
  - He need not have lost his temper.
  - They need not have come all this way.

### 14.2.12 Dare

1. Dare is used both as a principal verb and as an auxiliary. As a regular verb it is used in the sense of defy, challenge or face boldly and is regularly inflected.
  - He does not dare to swim the channel.
  - He dares you to do it.
2. As an auxiliary, dare is uninflected and is commonly used with not, or

in interrogative sentences, and only occasionally in positive statements.

- He dare not do so.
- I dare not take such a risk.
- Dare he say that to the boss?
- How dare he do such a thing?

### Check Your Progress : 1

#### • CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION

1. My grandmother is eighty-five, but she ..... still read and write without glasses. (Ability)  
A. Can                      B. Could                      C. May
2. .... I come with you?  
A. Can                      B. Will                      C. Would
3. .... you help me with the housework, please?(Polite request)  
A. Could                      B. Will                      C. Should
4. There was a time when I ..... stay up very late.(Past ability)  
A. Would                      B. Could                      C. Can
5. You ..... not lose any more weight. You are already slim.(Necessity)
6. We ..... not make the first move.(Prohibition)  
A. Must not                      B. Will not                      C. Can not
7. It is snowing outside so I ..... stay at home.(Intention)  
A. May                      B. Will                      C. Can
8. I ..... get you a shawl from Kashmir.(Promise)  
A. Will                      B. Would                      C. Can
9. .... you mind if I borrowed your car?(Permission)  
A. Will                      B. Would                      C. Should
10. .... you take care of my dog for a day?(Polite request)  
A. Will                      B. Shall                      C. Should
11. Our country ..... become a super power by 2025.(possibility)  
A. May                      B. Might                      C. Will
12. She ..... sell her home because she needs money.(weak possibility)  
A. May                      B. Might                      C. Could

### Check Your Progress : 2

#### • CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION

1. Jonathan ..... ski really well and he often wins his races.  
A. Will                      B. Would                      C. Can
2. I ..... go to the party but I'm still not sure.  
A. May                      B. Might                      C. Could
3. I think you ..... go out more and meet new people.  
A. Will                      B. Shall                      C. Should

4. This is a secret between you and me, so we ..... tell anyone.  
A. Must not            B. Will not            C. Can not
5. It's dangerous to go into deep water if you ..... swim.  
A. Must not            B. Will not            C. Can not
6. I ..... go out later with my parents but I don't really know.  
A. May                    B. Might                C. Could
7. All passengers ..... remain in their seats and ..... not use their mobile phones.  
A. May                    B. Need                 C. Must
8. .... you please phone me in the evening?  
A. May                    B. Might                C. Could
9. You ..... wear a uniform when you're in the army.  
A. May                    B. Need                 C. Must
10. You ..... not come with me. I can handle it alone.  
A. May                    B. Need                 C. Must

**Check Your Progress : 3**

**• Use 'Can', 'Can't', 'Could', or 'Couldn't'.**

1. .... you swim when you were 10?
2. We ..... get to the meeting on time yesterday because the train was delayed by one hour.
3. He's amazing, he ..... speak 5 languages including Chinese.
4. I ..... drive a car until I was 34, then I moved to the countryside so I had to learn.
5. I looked everywhere for my glasses but I ..... find them anywhere.
6. She's 7 years old but she ..... read yet – her parents are getting her extra lessons.
7. I read the book three times but I ..... understand it.
8. James ..... speak Japanese when he lived in Japan, but he's forgotten most of it now.
9. I ..... understand the chapter we had to read for homework. It was so difficult.
10. I ..... lift this box – it's too heavy! Would you help me?
11. Lucy ..... make it to our meeting after all. She's stuck in traffic at the moment.
12. John ..... play tennis really well. He's champion of his club.
13. Unfortunately, I really ..... sing at all! No-one in my family is musical either.
14. I ..... open this window. I think it's stuck!
15. Gill ..... play the piano. She's never studied it.

### Check Your Progress : 4

• Put in 'must + infinitive' or 'must + have + past participle'.

1. Keiko always does really well on exams. She \_\_\_\_\_ (study) a lot.
2. That woman drives a very expensive car. She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a lot of money.
3. You \_\_\_\_\_ (practise) a lot before you gave your speech. It was really great.
4. When Lizzie got home yesterday, there were flowers on the table. Her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) them.
5. Where is my purse? I saw it earlier, so it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in this room.
6. Sarah couldn't find her glasses. She thought she \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) them at her office.
7. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) cold outside. That man in the street is wearing a coat.
8. All my plants \_\_\_\_\_ (be) dead! I forgot to water them before I left for my holiday.
9. Susie is so late! She \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) the train.
10. There's rubbish all over my garden! A fox \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the bin.
11. Anna has a huge library in her house. She \_\_\_\_\_ (love) books.
12. Oh no, I don't have my keys! I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) them in the taxi.
13. When Lucy got home she found the ice cream had melted. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) too hot in the car.
14. If you haven't eaten all day, you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) hungry.
15. Jimmy and Louisa \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very tired. They have a new baby.
16. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) a lot in the night. There are puddles everywhere.
17. David \_\_\_\_\_ (be) happy. His girlfriend just agreed to marry him.
18. What an amazing kitchen you've got! You \_\_\_\_\_ (like) cooking.
19. John \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) all the biscuits! There are none left.
20. When I got up this morning, the kitchen was spotless. Lily \_\_\_\_\_ (tidy) it before she went to bed last night.

### Check Your Progress : 5

• Put in 'can't' or 'must'.

1. Why is that man looking around like that? He \_\_\_\_\_ be lost.
2. That woman \_\_\_\_\_ be a doctor! She looks far too young.
3. John always fails the tests, even though he's clever. He \_\_\_\_\_ study enough.

4. The food is really good at that restaurant. They \_\_\_\_\_ have a great chef.
5. Who's that at the door? It \_\_\_\_\_ be Susie – she'll still be at work now.
6. This \_\_\_\_\_ be John's house. This house has a red door, and it's number 24, just like he said.
7. Julie \_\_\_\_\_ have much money, or she would buy a new car. Her old one is falling apart.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ be at work now, can he? It's nearly midnight.
9. What a lot of lovely flowers you have! You \_\_\_\_\_ really like gardening.
10. David \_\_\_\_\_ drink a lot of coffee. He's finished two packets already this week!
11. This \_\_\_\_\_ be Jamie's coat. He's very tall, and this is tiny.
12. Her life \_\_\_\_\_ be easy. She has four children and very little money.
13. Where's Lucy? She \_\_\_\_\_ be at the library, as she often goes there at this time.
14. This bill \_\_\_\_\_ be right! Rs 50 for two cups of coffee!
15. Emma's amazingly good at the piano. She \_\_\_\_\_ practise a lot.
16. The car in front is driving so slowly that I think they \_\_\_\_\_ be looking for something.
17. You've already eaten enough for three people! You \_\_\_\_\_ still be hungry!
18. This book \_\_\_\_\_ belong to the library. It's certainly not mine.
19. It only takes three hours to fly from London to Sydney? That \_\_\_\_\_ be correct!
20. There \_\_\_\_\_ be something wrong with the fridge! It's making a very unusual noise.

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### 14.3 LET US SUM UP

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In this Unit, we have got the information and use of Modal Auxiliaries. These verbs can be used as helping verbs also; they decide the intention of many verbs. Modals are used in language to make language effective and semantically coherent.

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### 14.4 KEY WORDS

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Surrender: stop resisting to an enemy or opponent and submit to their authority.

Distinction: a difference or contrast between similar things or people.

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### 14.5 BOOKS SUGGESTED

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1. Contemporary English Grammar Structures and Composition by David Green. Macmillan.
2. High School English Grammar and Composition by P.C. Wren and H. Martin. S Chand & Company Limited, 1995.

3. Learners English Grammar And Composition by N.D.V. Prasada  
Rao .S. Chand Publishing, 2000

**Answers:**

**Check Your Progress 1:**

|     |     |     |      |      |      |
|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| 1 A | 2 A | 3 A | 4 B  | 5 B  | 6 A  |
| 7 B | 8 A | 9 B | 10 A | 11 A | 12 B |

**Check Your Progress 2:**

|     |     |     |      |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 1 C | 2 B | 3 C | 4 A  | 5 C | 6 B |
| 7 C | 8 C | 9 C | 10 B |     |     |

**Check Your Progress 3:**

|          |            |          |            |            |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1 Could  | 2 Couldn't | 3 Can    | 4 Couldn't | 5 Couldn't |
| 6 Can't  | 7 Couldn't | 8 Could  | 9 Couldn't | 10 Can't   |
| 11 Can't | 12 Can     | 13 Can't | 14 Can't   | 15 Can't   |

**Check Your Progress 4:**

|                     |                     |                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 must study        | 2 must have         | 3 must have practiced |
| 4 must have bought  | 5 must be           | 6 must have left      |
| 7 must be           | 8 must be           | 9 must have missed    |
| 10 must have been   | 11 must love        | 12 must have left     |
| 13 must have been   | 14 must be          | 15 must be            |
| 16 must have rained | 17 must be          | 18 must like          |
| 19 must have eaten  | 20 must have tidied |                       |

**Check Your Progress 5:**

|          |          |         |          |         |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1 Must   | 2 Can't  | 3 Can't | 4 Must   | 5 Can't |
| 6 Must   | 7 Can't  | 8 Can't | 9 Must   | 10 Must |
| 11 Can't | 12 Can't | 13 Must | 14 Can't | 15 Must |
| 16 Must  | 17 Can't | 18 Must | 19 Can't | 20 Must |