Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

How Sure Is It?

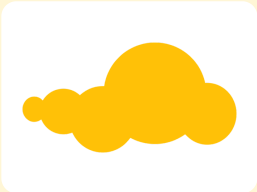
Modal verbs and adverbs for degrees of possibility

About 60 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Modal Verbs Show Possibility

A **modal verb** works with a main verb to show how **possible** something is. It never works alone.

- **Must** and **will** show strong certainty: It must be very cold outside.
- **Should** shows a good chance: It should be dry later.
- **May**, **might** and **could** show weak possibility: It might rain.
- Use the **base form** after a modal: She can swim, not She can swims.
- Some **adverbs** do the same job: definitely, probably, possibly.



Task A

/3

Spot the mistake in each sentence and write the correct version.



Student A

She cans swim well.

What mistake did Student A make? Write the correct fact.



Student B

It might to rain tomorrow.

What mistake did Student B make? Write the correct fact.



Student C

It must rain and It might rain mean the same.

What mistake did Student C make? Write the correct fact.

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Strong or Weak Words

See how the modal you choose changes what people do.

Key words

modal verb: helping verb like can, must or might

certainty: how sure you are

base form: the basic verb with no -s, -ed or -ing

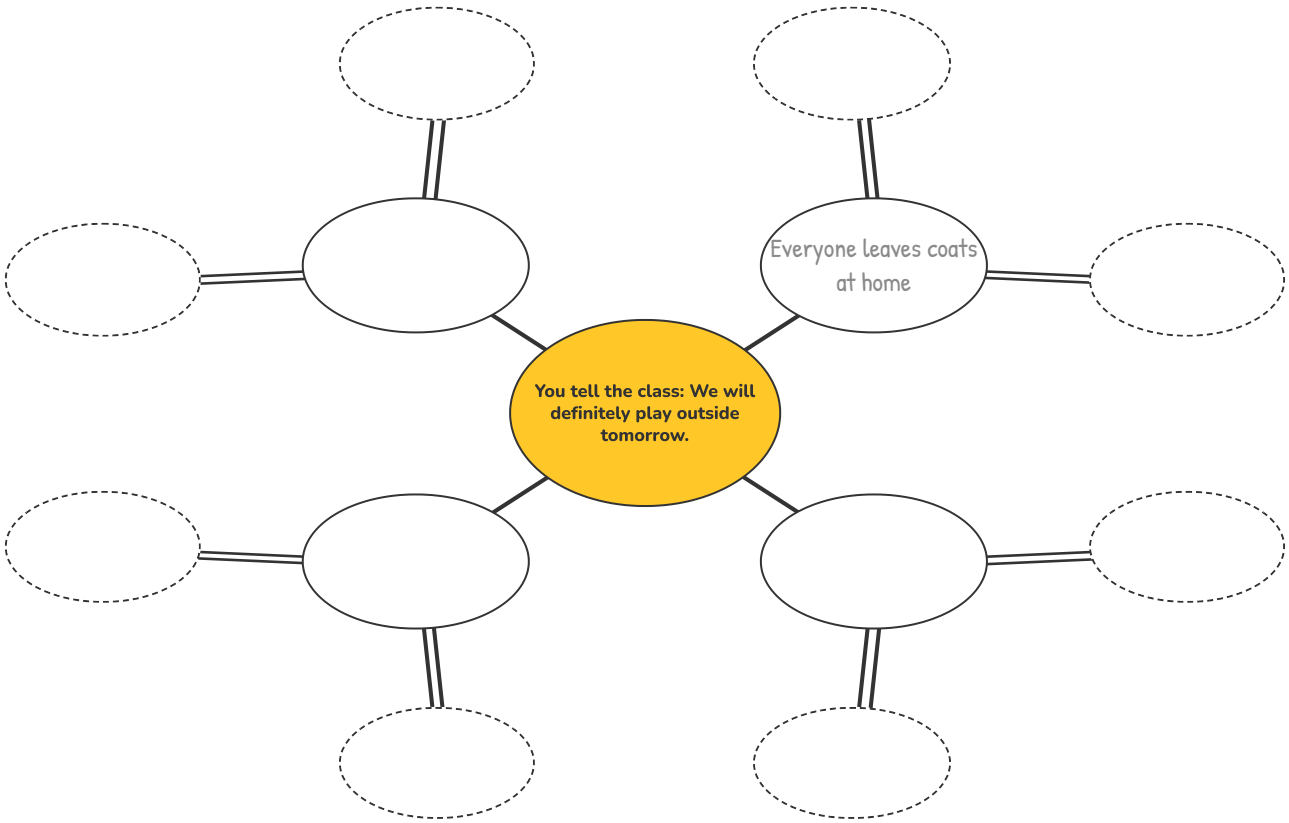
possibility: how likely something is to happen

adverb: word like definitely or probably that describes a verb

strength: how strong or weak a word sounds

Task B

Think about strong certainty. What happens if you use will instead of might?



Single lines lead to direct effects; double lines lead to knock-on effects.

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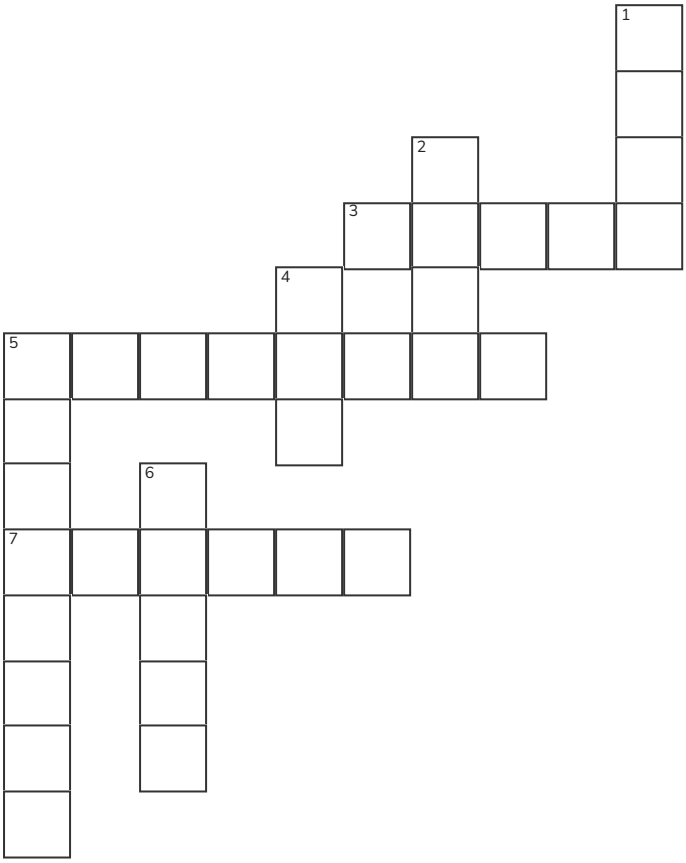
Possibility Crossword Puzzle

Solve clues about modal verbs and adverbs.

Task C

/8

Read each clue and write the modal verb or adverb.



Across

3. very weak possibility (5)
5. adverb meaning likely (8)
7. shows a good chance (6)

Down

1. strongest certainty, almost 100% sure (4)
2. very certain prediction about the future (4)
4. weak possibility (3)
5. adverb meaning maybe (8)
6. weak possibility, also past ability (5)

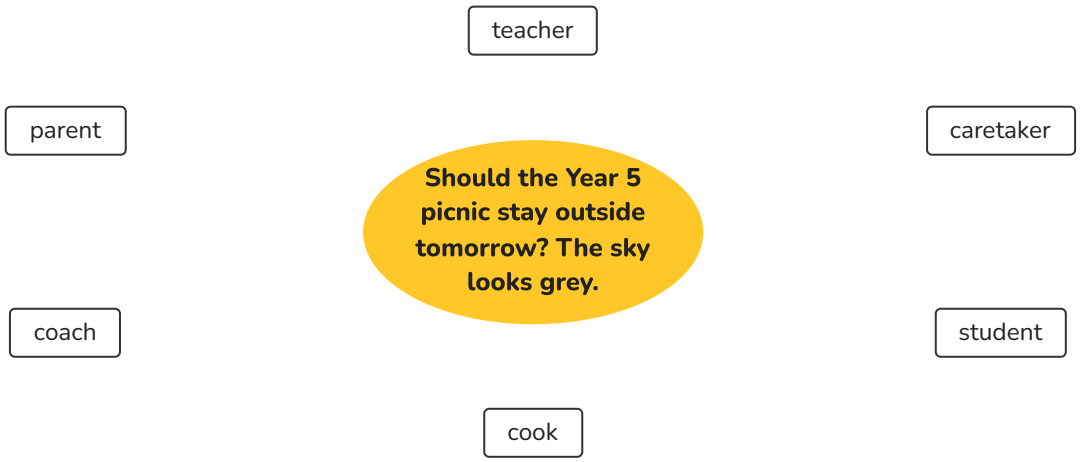
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What Do You Think?

Use modals to share a viewpoint about the picnic.

Task D

Choose one **viewpoint** and write 2 sentences with a **modal verb** to show **possibility**. Start with: In my view, ...



I am thinking of... from the viewpoint of...

.....

I think... (describe the topic from your viewpoint)

.....

.....

.....

A question I have from this viewpoint is...

.....

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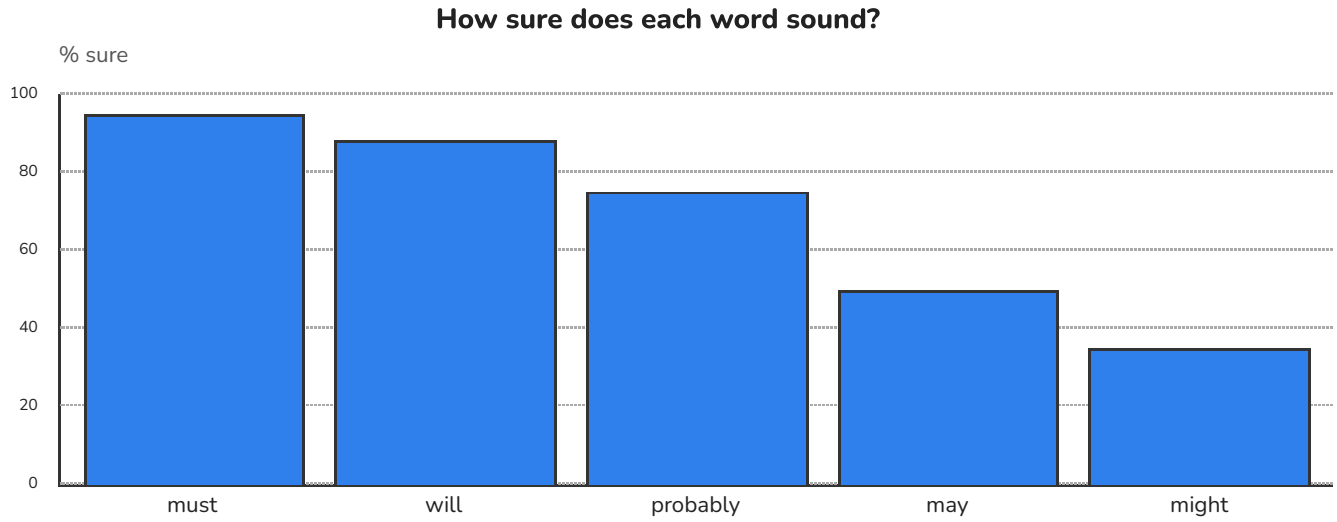
Chart and Order

Read data and order possibility from weak to strong.

Task E

/3

Look at the **chart** about **certainty** words and answer.



1. Which **word** shows the most **certainty**?

2. Which **word** shows the least **certainty**?

3. How much surer is **will** than **may**?

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How Sure Is It?

Task F Example done for you /5

Put the sentences in order from weakest possibility to strongest certainty.

- [ ] It should rain at lunch.
- [ ] It could rain at lunch.
- [ ] It will rain at lunch.
- [ ] It may rain at lunch.
- [ ] It must rain at lunch. The sky is black!
- [1] It might rain at lunch.

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can choose a modal verb to show how possible something is.	☹	😐	☺
I can use adverbs like probably and definitely to show certainty.	☹	😐	☺
I can use a modal verb with the base form correctly.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: How Sure Is It?

Task A

1. Student A: Modal verbs never add -s. Correct: She can swim well.
2. Student B: A modal is followed by the base form with no to. Correct: It might rain tomorrow.
3. Student C: They show different strength. Must is strong certainty, might is weak possibility.

Task B

Answers will vary, e.g. Everyone leaves coats at home

Task C

1 down: MUST
2 down: WILL
3 across: MIGHT
4 down: MAY
5 across: PROBABLY
5 down: POSSIBLY
6 down: COULD
7 across: SHOULD

Task D

Answers will vary.

Task E

1. must
2. might
3. 38% surer, 88% minus 50%

Task F

1. It might rain at lunch. 2. It may rain at lunch. 3. It could rain at lunch. 4. It should rain at lunch. 5. It will rain at lunch. 6. It must rain at lunch. The sky is black!

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