



**Year 5**

**Summer Term 1**

**Week 2**

**Lesson 1**

# Modal Verbs

Modal verbs express **certainty**, **ability** or **obligation**.

## Certainty

may  
might  
would  
shall  
will

## Ability

can  
could

## Obligation

must  
should  
ought

## Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are placed before the **verb** they are **modifying**.

I thought I **might** **eat** a snack.

You **could** **see** them from the windows.

They **should** **investigate** this incident.

# Indicating Degrees of Certainty using Modal Verbs

The frogs **might** be dangerous.

The frogs **will** be dangerous. ✓

The frogs **may** be dangerous.

*Which sentence is most **certain**?*

# Indicating Degrees of Obligation using Modal Verbs

We **should** investigate.

We **ought to** investigate.

We **must** investigate. ✓

*Which sentence has the strongest degree of **obligation**?*

## Indicating Ability using Modal Verbs

Pigs **might** fly.

Pigs **would** fly.

Pigs **can** fly. ✓

Pigs **must** fly.

*Which sentence indicates **ability**?*

# Using Modal Verbs to Express Certainty

**Modal verbs** are useful for reporting when the **facts are not certain...**

*The frogs **may** be looking for a new home.*

*The frogs **might** return.*

...and for showing when they are.

*Flying pigs **would** cause more chaos.*

*We **will** keep our windows shut next Tuesday!*

# Using Modal Verbs to Express Obligation

**Modal verbs** are useful for including **opinion** in a report.

*The frogs **must** be stopped.*

*I **should** be safe to leave my washing out at night.*

*The council **ought to** pick up all of the lily pads.*

They are more commonly found in informal opinion-piece reports and in **direct speech** quotations from people interviewed.



**End**