

Modal Verbs

When you state an opinion, you may use modal verbs as follows:

Modal Verbs	Usage	Negative Forms
can	Express ability or possibility We <u>can</u> work harder if we are healthier.	cannot can't
could	Express possibility Polar bears <u>could</u> survive in winter if they store enough food.	could not couldn't
may/might	Express weak possibility George W. Bush <u>may</u> win the next election if he can find bio-chemical weapons in Iraq. George W. Bush <u>might</u> win the next election if he can find bio-chemical weapons in Iraq.	may not might not
should ought to	Express advice I think the government <u>should</u> legalize casinos in Thailand. I think the government <u>ought to</u> legalize casinos in Thailand.	should not shouldn't ought not to
must have to	Express necessity Thai teenagers <u>must</u> be informed about the terrible effects of drugs. Teenagers <u>must not</u> imitate criminals in a movie. Young children <u>have to</u> listen to their parents.	must not/mustn't does/do not have to doesn't/ don't have to
will	Express future action/ plan The government <u>will</u> organize a public hearing about opening a legal casino in Thailand soon.	will not won't