**Modals**

Modals are those helping verbs, which express the ‘mode’ or ‘manner’ of the actions indicated by the main verbs. They express modes such as ability, possibility, probability, permission, obligation, etc.

The most commonly used modals are shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, used to, need and dare.

Modals are used to:

- **Ask permission**—may, can, could
  Examples:  
  - **May** I come in?  
  - **Could** I use your pen, please?

- **Make a request**—can, could
  Example:  
  - **Could** you please give me the doctor’s telephone number?

- **Express a possibility**—may, might, could
  Example:  
  - It **might** rain during the night.

- **Give advice or suggestion**—should
  Example:  
  - You **should** wear a helmet while riding your motorbike.

- **Express necessity or compulsion**—must, have to
  Examples:  
  - We **must** slow down while driving in front of a school.  
  - I **have to** submit my project by tomorrow.

- **Express prohibition**
  Example:  
  - You **must not** talk loudly in the library.

- **Express a promise or intention**—will, shall
  Example:  
  - I **will** mail you my address.

- **Express a wish**—may
  Example:  
  - **May** you have a long life!
A modal does not change according to the number or person of the subject.

Examples:
- He can learn.
- I can learn.
- You can learn.
- They can learn.
- We can learn.

A modal is always used with a verb in its basic form. The modal takes the tense while the main verb remains in its dictionary form.

Examples:
- I can run.
- I may run.
- I could run.
- I might run.

Modals can be used alone in response to a question.

Examples:
- Can you sing? I can.
- Will you sing? I will.
- Will you come? I may./I will.

Modals, when joined with ‘not’ to form a negative, can be contracted.

Examples:
- I cannot run. I can’t run.
- I do not run. I don’t run.
- I will not run. I won’t run.
Worksheet 8

I. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by using appropriate modals.

a) _______ you please tell me the direction to the hotel?

b) You _______ pay in cash. They do not accept credit cards.

c) I _______ come home from the office today.

d) _______ I help you?

e) You _______ clean your room.

f) We _______ keep the lights and fans switched off when they are not in use.

g) We _______ improve the existing education system.

h) _______ you have a wonderful day!

i) I _______ go to see the movie. The reviews are good.

j) I _______ definitely be at the airport to receive you.

k) She _______ take her meals regularly.

l) You _______ reach home before eleven, she said.

m) _______ we go for a walk?

n) The soldiers in the Army _______ wear a uniform.

o) There is one more point I _______ refer to.

p) You have worked hard. You _______ pass.

q) It is very cloudy. It _______ rain.

r) You _______ be properly dressed when you come to office.

s) _______ you like to come to the party tomorrow?

t) People _______ not tell lies.

II. Fill in the blanks with the correct modals given in the brackets.

God is great and we (a) _______ (should/would) be grateful to him. We (b) _______ (might/should) do our duty and leave the reward in the hands of God. Ultimately, God (c) _______ (might/will) help us. We (d) _______ (might/should/may) leave everything to God.
III. There is a missing word in each line of the following passage. Mark the place of the missing word with a ‘/’ and write the correct word. Write the word before and after the word in your answer sheet.

People / not ask a writer why he writes his a) People need not.
biography. They know that every life b) ____________ be interesting if properly presented.
Moreover, we learn many things if c) ____________
we want to from a great life. It not be d) ____________
necessarily the life of a great leader that inspire us. e) ____________

IV. There is an error in each line of the passage that follows. Write the incorrect and correct word in your answer sheet.

Plastic bags are not be used because a) are should
they should cause much pollution. b) ____________
They need never disintegrate with c) ____________
time. They should block the sewerage. d) ____________
It need to melted and reprocessed e) ____________
but that might make it even more f) ____________
harmful. Even if buried they can g) ____________
ever be destroyed. They should be h) ____________
useful today but they would be i) ____________
very harmful for the coming generations. j) ____________

V. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in the answer sheet.

The label can be removed before cooking. a) ____________ ____________
Then the cookware could be rinsed in b) ____________ ____________
warm soapy water. It is advisable to keep c) ____________ ____________
to low heat. The cookware would never d) ____________ ____________
be used on high heat. Very high e) ____________ ____________
temperatures would cause sticking. The f) ____________ ____________
handles used to also loosen. However, g) ____________ ____________
one should not worry about the maintenance as it is quite easy. The vessel might be cleaned with liquid detergent. One can not use sharp detergent for cleaning.

VI. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals from the ones given in the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>should</th>
<th>might</th>
<th>can</th>
<th>could</th>
<th>have to</th>
<th>must</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

a) Ritu’s flight from Morocco took more than 11 hours. She ________ be exhausted after such a long flight. She ________ prefer to stay in tonight and get some rest.

b) If you want to get a better feeling for how Raniganj is laid out, you ________ walk down town and explore the riverside.

c) You ________ research the route a little more before you set sail.

d) When you have a small child in the house, you ________ leave small objects lying around.

e) Anvesha: ________ you hold your breath for more than a minute?
   Bunty: No, I can’t.

f) Jasprit’s engagement ring is enormous! It ________ have cost a fortune.

g) Please make sure to feed the fish while I am gone. If they don’t get enough food, they ________ die.

h) I ________ speak Assamese fluently when I was a child.

i) The teacher said we ________ read the book if we needed extra credit.

j) The spatula ________ be in this cupboard but it’s not here.