

The modal verb Can/Could

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Ability	can (can't) – Present Indefinite; could – (couldn't) – Past.	Indefinite	Positive Negative Interrogative	to be able to; to be good at; to be capable of; to have the ability to do smth.	мочь; уметь; не уметь; не мочь	She can dance well. I could guess what he wanted. They couldn't save the patient. Can you drive a car?
Possibility	can (can't) – Present Indefinite; could – (couldn't) – Past.	Indefinite	Positive Negative Interrogative	It's possible for smb./smth. to do smth.	может; можно; не может	Anybody can make a mistake. Can I have a cup of tea? (=Is the place open?)
Permission	can – Present; could - Past	Indefinite	Positive	to allow; to permit; to be allowed; to be permitted	можно; разрешать; позволять	You can pay by your credit card
Request	can – Present; could – Past; could – Subjunctive II form (polite)	Indefinite	Interrogative	Do you allow...? Do you permit...? Am I allowed...?	Можно...? Мне разрешено...? Вы мне разрешаете...?	Can I have some more cake? He asked me if he could use my car. Could I ask you something if you are not too busy?
Prohibition	can't – Present; couldn't – Past	Indefinite	Negative	not to be allowed to; not to be permitted to	Нельзя; Не разрешено	You can't sit on the grass. He said that we couldn't take so many things with us.

Unreality	could – Subjunctive II form	Indefinite Perfect	Positive Negative Interrogative	would be able to do smth; would have been able to do smth.	Мог бы; Могли бы	He could borrow my car if he asked. He could have been Prime Minister if he hadn't decided to leave politics.
Surprise, astonishment	could – Subjunctive II form; can	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect; Perfect Cont.	Interrogative (general questions)	Is it possible that...? Do you believe that...?	Неужели; Может ли быть, чтобы; Возможно ли	Can/Could she be a doctor? Can/Could they be working together?
Incredulity	could - Subjunctive II form; can	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect; Perfect Cont.	Negative	It's hardly possible that; I refuse to believe that; It's doubtful that	Невероятно, чтобы; Не может быть, чтобы; Вряд ли...	They can't/couldn't be married; She can't/couldn't be sleeping now
Supposition implying uncertainty, doubt	could - Subjunctive II form	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect; Perfect Cont.	Positive	Maybe; Perhaps; Possibly; It's possible	Возможно; Может быть	She could work as an actress, but I'm not sure.
Criticism	could - Subjunctive II form	Indefinite; Perfect;	Positive	You might (have)...; Why don't (didn't) you?	Мог(ла) бы...	You could have told me you were leaving for the United Kingdom.
Emotional colouring	could - Subjunctive II form can	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect; Perfect Cont.	Interrogative (special questions)	What Where When How	И что это; И как он; И где она	What can/could she mean? How could/can you be so silly, James?

Note: Note the following set phrases with can:

1. Cannot (can't) help doing smth. – Не могу не делать что-либо.
2. Cannot (can't) but do smth. – Мне ничего другого не остается, как....

The modal verb May/Might

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Permission	may – Present Indefinite might – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	positive	you are allowed...; you are permitted...	можно; разрешать; позволять	You may go for a walk with my friends.
Request	May - Present Indefinite might – Past Indefinite might – Subjunctive II form (polite)	Indefinite	interrogative	Do you allow...? Do you permit...? Am I allowed...?	Можно...? Мне разрешено...? Вы мне разрешаете?	May I use your computer?
Prohibition	May not – Present Indefinite Might not – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	negative	You are not permitted...; You are not allowed...	Нельзя; не разрешаю; Не позволяю	You may not go swimming today.
Possibility of the fact (factual possibility)	May – Present Indefinite Might – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	positive	Is it possible for smb/smth to do smth; There is a chance that smth will happen (is happening)	Можно; может быть; могут	You may order a taxi by phone.
Unreality	Might – Subjunctive	Indefinite Perfect	positive	Would perhaps do;	Мог бы; могли бы	If you tried phoning

	II form			Would perhaps have done		him, you might make an appointment.
Criticism	Might - Subjunctive II form	Indefinite Perfect	positive	Why (didn't) don't you...? I reproach you for...	Мог бы; могли бы	You might at least offer to help. She might have opened the window for me.
Supposition implying uncertainty, doubt	Might - Subjunctive II form may	Indefinite; Perfect; Continuous; Perfect Continuous	positive negative	Maybe; perhaps; possibly; it's possible	Возможно; может быть	When I go to London, I may/might be staying with Sarah, but I'm not sure.

Note: Note the following set phrases with may/might:

1. If I may say so... - Если можно так сказать...
2. Strange as it may seem... - Как бы странно не казалось...

The modal verb must

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Obligation with no freedom of choice or from the speaker's point of view	Must – in the present or future time contexts; in past time contexts in Indirect Speech	Indefinite	positive	To be obliged to; It's necessary for smb to do smth	Должен; обязан; необходимо; надо	I really must stop drinking; She said she must go to the dentist.
Strict prohibition	Mustn't	Indefinite	negative	To be forbidden; not to be allowed	Нельзя; не разрешается; запрещается	People mustn't cross the street against the red light.
Emphatic advice, request or invitation (must is usually stressed)	Must Mustn't	Indefinite	positive negative	To advise strongly; to recommend ; to invite insistently; Not to advise	Убедительно прошу; настоятельно советую (рекомендую); Очень прошу; не рекомендую	You must come to our party. It will be fun.
Supposition implying strong probability, assurance	Must	Indefinite Continuous; Perfect; Perfect continuous	positive <hr/> Negative: a) negative prefixes: un;in;dis. b) negative	Probably; surely; Obviously; Evidently; No doubt; Undoubtedl y; In all probability	Вероятно; Очевидно; Наверное; Должно быть; По всей вероятности; Без сомнения; По-видимому	They must know each other. <hr/> She must be in experienced In translating medical articles.

			<p>words: never, none, no.</p> <p>c) modal verbs: probably; surely etc.</p> <hr/> <p>Future reference: The expression s: To be likely, to be sure</p>			<hr/> <p>She is sure to win.</p>
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Note: Note the following set phrases with must:

1. I must be going / I must be off... - Мне пора уходить.
2. I must tell you that... / I must say... - Я должна сказать...

The modal verbs Have to, Have got to

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Obligation necessity arising out of circumstances	Have (has) to – Present Indefinite; Had to – Past Indefinite; Will have to – Future Indefinite; Have(has) got to – in colloquial English; Do (does) ...have to? Did...have to...? Have (has)...got to...?	Indefinite	positive interrogative	To be obliged to (instead of must in the past and in the future)	Приходиться; Вынужден; Должен	I have to be at home before seven. Do I have to pay for that book?
Absence of necessity (an action which was (is) not performed as there was (is) no obligation)	Don't (doesn't) have to; didn't have to; haven't got to; haven't to	Indefinite	negative	Not to be obliged to	Не приходится; Нет необходимости; Не нужно	You don't have to take a jacket, it's rather warm.

Note: Note the following set phrases:

You have (got) to be kidding – Должно быть, ты шутишь.

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The modal verb Need

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Personal necessity due to circumstances	Need	Indefinite	positive interrogative	It is necessary for me...	Мне лично необходимо; Мне нужно	I need wait for her. Need we answer this letter?
Lack of personal necessity	Needn't	Indefinite	negative	It's not necessary for me...	Мне лично не нужно; у меня нет необходимости; Мне вряд ли надо; мне едва ли необходимо	I needn't type this letter again.
Absence of necessity with an action, which was performed though it wasn't necessary	Needn't	Perfect	negative	It wasn't absolutely necessary for me...	Не было необходимости; не нужно было; зря; незачем; напрасно (было сделано)	He needn't have cooked dinner (=but he cooked the dinner).

The modal verb Be to

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Obligation a) arising out of an arrangement or plan	am (is,are) to; was/were to	Indefinite	positive interrogative negative	To plan; To arrange; To decide; To agree; To be supposed; To be expected	Должен; Договориться; планировать	The President is to visit Belarus next week.
b) arising out of an arrangement or plan which wasn't carried out	Was/were to	Perfect	positive	To mean To expect To hope To intend	Должен был, но...; Планировал; Хотел; Наделся	I was to have come last Friday, but I couldn't.
Strict order, instruction (applying to some rules and directions)	is (are) to; was/were to	Indefinite	positive negative	To tell smb; To order	Должен; обязан; Необходимо; Не следует делать что-либо; не нужно	They are to do their homework before they watch TV.
Strict prohibition	Isn't (aren't) to; Wasn't/ weren't to	Indefinite	negative	To be forbidden; to be prohibited	Не должен; нельзя	You are not to smoke on the plane.
Possibility	Am/is/are to; Was/were to	Indefinite Passive	positive negative interrogative	To be arranged according to an order; To be possible; To be impossible	Всегда можно найти что-то; нельзя	This book is to be found on this shelf.
Something thought of or destined to happen as unavoidable	Am/is/are to; Was/were to	Indefinite	positive negative	To be destined; To happen; To become	Суждено случиться; Суждено стать; предстоит	She was to be my teacher and friend for many years to come.

Note: Note the following set phrases with Be to:

1. Where **am I to go**? Куда же мне деваться? Куда же мне идти?
2. What **am I to do**? Что мне делать? Как мне быть?
3. What **is to become** of me? Что со мной будет?
4. Who **is to begin**? Кому начинать?
5. Who **is to blame**? Кто виноват?

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The modal verb Should/Ought to

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Obligation with the meaning of a) advisability, desirability	Should Shouldn't Ought to Oughtn't to	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect (positive sentences: a desirable action was not carried out; negative sentences: an undesirable action was carried out)	positive negative	I advise you to do.; I recommend you to do; It is desirable for you to do; I don't recommend you; I wouldn't advise you...	Нужно; Следует; Следовало бы; Не следует	This salad is too salty, you should/ought to send it back.
b) moral duty and responsibility	Should Shouldn't Ought to Oughtn't to	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect	positive negative	It is your moral duty...; It is your responsibility ...; It is your responsibility not to do smth...	Следует; обязан; Мой (твой) долг; должен; не следует	You should/ought to treat your brother with more respect.

Asking for advice or instruction	Should Ought to (in a structure with think... ought to)	Indefinite	interrogative	Do you recommend..? Do you advise...? What is your advise...?	Мне это делать? Вы думаете, мне следует? Как вы думаете, что нам делать?	Should I leave these documents on your desk?
Orders and instructions	Should	Indefinite	positive	My orders for you are...; My instructions for you are...; The order is that...	Должны; Нужно; следует	Guests should vacate their rooms by midday.
Criticism	Should Shouldn't Ought to Oughtn't to	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect	positive negative	You might do (have done); Why don't (didn't) you...? Why do (did) you...?	(не)следует; Надо; Могла (бы); Нужно (бы)	You should/ought to be more reasonable when you deal with your clients!
Supposition implying strong probability	Should Shouldn't Ought to Oughtn't to	Indefinite; Continuous; Perfect	positive negative	Probably; Evidently; Very likely (unlikely)	Должно быть; Наверное; Очевидно; Вероятно	The bus from Moscow should be arriving about now.
Emotional colouring	Should Shouldn't	Indefinite	interrogative	Why do you want me to do it? How is it possible...?	С какой стати...? Откуда мне знать...?	Why should I go there?

The modal verb Shall

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Promise, strong intention	Shall Shan't <i>(with the 2nd and 3rd person singular and plural)</i>	Indefinite	positive negative	To promise; To intend	Обещаю; Намерен сделать <i>(by emphatic intonation)</i>	You shall have my answer tomorrow.
Threat, warning	Shall Shan't <i>(with the 2nd and 3rd person singular and plural)</i>	Indefinite	positive negative	To warn; To threaten	Серьезно предупреждаю; Угрожаю <i>(by emphatic intonation)</i>	You shall do as I say.
Strict orders, instructions	Shall Shan't <i>(with the 2nd and 3rd person singular and plural)</i>	Indefinite	positive negative	To make smb. to do smth; To tell smb; To order	Должны (а); Перестаньте; Прекратите <i>(by emphatic intonation)</i>	You shall not touch me again.
Offer, suggestion	Shall <i>(with the 1st person singular and plural)</i>	Indefinite	interrogative	How about...? Why don't we...? Do you want me to do it? Am I to do it? I suggest	Вы хотите, чтобы я...? Давай (те)...; Я предлагаю... <i>(by emphatic intonation)</i>	Shall I get you some fresh coffee?
Asking for advice or suggestion	Shall	Indefinite	interrogative	What is your suggestion? What can you advise?	Как ты думаешь? Кто (как) по-твоему?	What on earth shall we do?

The modal verb Will/Would

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
Volition (willingness, readiness, strong intention or determination)	Will (won't) – Present Indefinite Would (wouldn't) – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	positive negative	To intend; To be willing; To wish, To want; To be determined	Охотно что-то делать; (не)желать; (не)хотеть	I will definitely pay you back next week.
Habitual (recurrent) actions and typical characteristics	will – Present Indefinite would – past Indefinite	Indefinite	positive	usually; used to do; continue (do regularly)	Обычно; Как обычно; Постоянно; бывало	David would always help us with our Russian homework.
Persistence or refusal to perform an action	Will (won't) – Present Indefinite Would (wouldn't) – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	positive negative	To insist on; To keep on; To refuse; To continue	Упорно продолжать; Настаивать; Отказываться; Не хотеть	I ask him to stop talking on the phone but she will .
Inanimate objects (lifeless things) refuse to perform their immediate function	(won't) – Present Indefinite (wouldn't) – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	negative	To resist	Никак не...; Ни за что не...; Совсем не...; Так и не...; Все равно не...	It's no use trying to open the door; it won't open.
Requests and offers	Will - Present Indefinite Would – Subjunctive II form (a polite request)	Indefinite	interrogative	Could you...? May I ask you...? Will you be so kind as...? I offer you...	Будьте так добры; Не могли бы вы...? Можно вас попросить?	Will you help me? Would you have some more wine?

Supposition implying strong probability	Will – (with the 2 nd and 3 rd person singular and plural)	Indefinite Perfect	positive	Probably; It's probable; It's certain; Certainly	Вероятно; Очевидно; Наверное	This will be just what she wants.
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Note: Note the following set phrases with Will/Would:

1. Will not have (won't have) somebody do something – Я не допущу, чтобы...
2. Would rather ('d rather)/ would sooner ('d sooner) do smth – Предпочитаю/ пожалуй...
3. Would...mind... - Возражать против чего-то.
4. Would like / would love – Хотелось бы/ Сделаю с удовольствием.
5. What will be will be – Чему быть того не миновать.
Boys will be boys – Мальчики остаются мальчиками.

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The modal verb Dare

Meaning	Forms of the modal verb	Forms of the Infinitive	Types of sentences	Lexical equivalents	Russian equivalents	Sentence patterns
To have the courage or impudence to do smth	Dare (daren't) – Present Indefinite Dared – Past Indefinite	Indefinite	Interrogative negative	To have the courage to do smth; Not to have the courage to do smth;	Осмеливаться; Иметь смелость; Не иметь смелости	How dare she come here?
Supposition on personal courage	Dare	Indefinite	positive	To suppose; To assume	Допускать; предполагать	I dare say you are right.

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