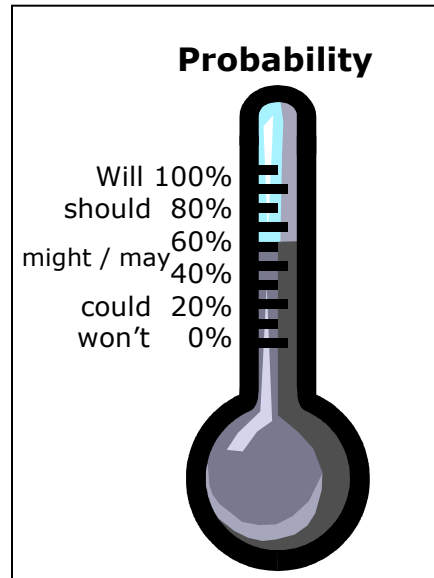


Modal Verbs of Probability

Modal Verb	Meaning
must / will (future)	Very sure
can	Very sure (ability)
should	Expect it to happen
might	A good chance
may	50 / 50
may not / mightn't	About 30-40%
could	It is possible
won't / couldn't / can't / mustn't	Negative very sure



Select the right modal:

1. They must / will be in Myanmar by now
2. They will / must be in Bangkok on Friday
3. He's a strongman and can / may lift a car
4. He's a very good chef and he may / can't make a cake for my son's birthday.
5. It could / will snow in South Korea in February.

About Me

Now make true statements about yourself:

1. I _____ be going on holiday this year.
2. I _____ study hard
3. I _____ see my parents this weekend.
4. I _____ buy some clothes this month.
5. I _____ go shopping this weekend.

Discuss

What are you planning to do this weekend?

Further Practice

- <http://www.englishpage.com/modals/interactivemodal1.htm>
- <http://www.englishpage.com/modals/interactivemodal4.htm>
- <http://www.englishpage.com/modals/interactivemodal7.htm>

Teacher's Notes

Answers

1. They must be in Myanmar by now – Present tense
2. They will be in Bangkok on Friday – Future
3. He's a strongman and can lift a car – He has the ability to do it.
4. He's a very good chef and he may make a cake for my son's birthday. – He can certainly do it, but its not guaranteed he will.
5. It could snow in South Korea in February. – It's not guaranteed to snow in February.

In Part 2 & 3 students have the opportunity to personalise, try to concept check answers and ask for details.

Matching Exercise

Cut out each of the cells and get students to match meanings.

Modal Verb	Meaning
must / will (future)	Very sure
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may	50 / 50
may not / mightn't	About 30-40%
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won't / couldn't / can't / mustn't	Negative very sure

American / British English

There is some debate amongst linguists as to whether might or may is stronger, American linguists suggest that might is stronger, but older British texts suggest that may is stronger. They can almost be used interchangeably, so don't let students worry too much about it.