

P5-P6 English

情態動詞

Modal Verbs:

can, may, must, have to, need to, will, shall, would, should, ought to

1. Modal Verbs (情態動詞)

Definition: to show if we believe something is certain, possible or impossible, and compulsory.

■ Examples:

- can (會，能夠，可以)
- may (可能，可否)
- must, have to (一定要，必定要，必須)
- will (會，可以)
- shall (好嗎，一定會)
- would (會，想)
- should, ought to (應該)
- need to (須要)

2. Can (會，能夠，可以)

■ (1) To express possibility and ability (會，能夠)

- E.g. I **can** speak mandarin fluently.
- E.g. Fish **can** swim, but rabbits **cannot**.

■ (2) To express request (可以)

- E.g. **Can** I borrow your pen, please?
- E.g. **Can** I join your group?
- Notes: we usually use “could” in this situation to make the request sound polite.



- E.g. **Could** you please help me solve this problem?
- E.g. **Could** you turn off the air conditioner?

3. May (可能，可否)

■ (1) To express possibility (可能)

- E.g. I **may** see you tomorrow afternoon.
- E.g. I **may** finish my homework on time.

■ (2) To express request (可否)

- E.g. **May** I have your name?
- E.g. **May** I have some more food?

4. Must, have to (一定要，必定要，必須)

■ To express it is necessary or very important that something happens in the present or future (一定要，必定要，必須)

- E.g. You **must** get some sleep.
- E.g. Personal belongings **must not** be left unattended.
- E.g. Meat **must** be cooked thoroughly.
- E.g. I **have to** go home now.
- E.g. Leo **will have to** go to Beijing tomorrow.
- Notes: if the sentence is in the past tense, use “had to” instead of “must”
- E.g. I **had to** practice the piano last night.

5. Will (會，可以)

■ (1) To express possibility and willingness (會)

- E.g. I **will** send you a gift on your birthday.



E.g. I **will** become a doctor 10 years later.

■ (2) To express request (可以)

E.g. **Will** you join our football team?

E.g. **Will** you come over and have a cake, Charlie?

6. Shall (好嗎，一定會)

■ (1) To express suggestion and invitation (好嗎)

E.g. **Shall** I close the window?

E.g. **Shall** we go out for dinner tonight?

■ (2) To express determination (一定會/一定不會)

E.g. Don't worry. I **shall** catch up with the train.

E.g. The students **shall not** be allowed to leave school in the daytime unless they are accompanied by adults.

7. Would (會，想)

■ To express suggestion and willingness (會，想)

E.g. **Would** you mind sharing a table?

E.g. **Would** you like me to come with you?

E.g. Mary said she **would** visit her brother tomorrow.

8. Should, ought to (應該)

■ To express what is right and appropriate (應該)

E.g. We **should** go home early at night.

E.g. Tony **should not** drink and drive.

E.g. We **ought to** help our mother to do the housework.



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- ❑ E.g. You **ought not to** work so hard. Take care!

9. Need to (須要)

■ To express responsibility (須要)

- ❑ E.g. You **need to** lose some weight.
- ❑ E.g. I **need to** go to the supermarket on my way home from work.
- ❑ E.g. Nothing **need to** be done until the new semester starts.
- ❑ E.g. You **do not need to** drive her to school.
- ❑ E.g. **Need** we take your mother? No, we needn't.