

Modal Verbs

Part A

Modal verbs work with another verb to describe how likely things are to happen or what degree of certainty is known. Modal verbs are not the main verb in the sentence so sometimes they are known as the auxiliary verb.

e.g. The children **might** be evacuated.

The word '**might**' is the modal verb in this sentence. The word 'be' (the infinitive form of the verb 'to be') is the main verb.

Underline the modal verbs in the following sentences:

1. Evacuated children should be safer in the countryside.
2. Some evacuees may worry about leaving home.
3. Evacuees must carry a gas mask and wear an identity label.
4. The train journey can take many hours.
5. Host families should provide a safe home for evacuees.

Imagine you are about to be evacuated. Write how you are feeling about this prospect using the following modal verbs in your sentences.

1. I will _____
2. On the train, I must _____
3. When I arrive, I could _____

Write your own sentences about evacuation using modal verbs:

Modal Verbs

Part B

Modal verbs work with another verb to describe how likely things are to happen or what degree of certainty is known. Modal verbs are not the main verb in the sentence so sometimes they are known as the auxiliary verb.

e.g. Conscription will be introduced for women before the end of the war.

The word '**will**' is the modal verb in this sentence. The word '**be**' (infinitive form of 'to be') is the main verb.

Insert an appropriate modal verb into these sentences. Try to vary the ones you use.

1. With many men away at war, women _____ volunteer to work.
2. Women _____ work in many different roles.
3. Some women _____ volunteer with the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service).
4. Some women _____ work in munitions factories.
5. After the war, many women _____ leave their wartime jobs.

Write an extra clause to extend each sentence and use a modal verb.

e.g. Betty has got a job as a Land Girl...

...so she may have to work on a farm.

1. Edie works in a munitions factory...

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2. John is worried about his mum getting a job...
-

3. Some women work as air raid wardens...
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4. Joan has joined the army...
-

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Challenge Task

Imagine you are a woman in World War II. Write how you are feeling about the prospect of getting a job. Consider different jobs and describe what they might involve and how you feel. Use and underline these modal verbs in your sentences: ought to, could, can, might, will. Can you use any other modal verbs? Underline any others that you use.

I really should do my bit for the war effort. I may...

Modal Verbs Answers

Part A

Underline the modal verbs in the following sentences:

1. Evacuated children should be safer in the countryside.
2. Some evacuees may worry about leaving home.
3. Evacuees must carry a gas mask and wear an identity label.
4. The train journey can take many hours.
5. Host families should provide a safe home for evacuees.

Imagine you are about to be evacuated. Write how you are feeling about this prospect using the following modal verbs in your sentences.

Example answers (accept all suitable responses):

1. I will miss my family very much.
2. On the train, I must wear my identity label at all times.
3. When I arrive, I could start to feel very nervous.

Part B

Insert an appropriate modal verb into these sentences. Try to vary the ones you use.

1. With many men away at war, women ought to / should / can / may volunteer to work.
2. Women can / may / could / might work in many different roles.
3. Some women may / could / will / might volunteer with the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service).
4. Some women might / will / could / may work in munitions factories.
5. After the war, many women will / must leave their wartime jobs.

Write an extra clause to extend each sentence and use a modal verb.

Example answers (accept all suitable responses):

1. Edie works in a munitions factory where she must make new weapons for the soldiers.
2. John is worried about his mum getting a job because he may not get to see her as much.
3. Some women work as air raid wardens and they can advise people how to stay safe during an air raid.
4. Joan has joined the army so she may have to drive a tank.