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**L2 G4**

## **MODALS: Understanding Modals of Probability**

### **I. Introduction to Modals of Probability:**

Modals are essential components of English grammar that convey various degrees of certainty, possibility, and probability. Modals of probability, also known as modals of possibility, are a subset of modal verbs that express how likely an event is to occur. In this lesson, we will explore modals of probability, their definitions, usages, examples, differences, and exercises to help you understand their usage more effectively.

### **II. Definitions: Modals of Probability**

Modals of probability are verbs that indicate the likelihood or probability of an event or situation. Common modals of probability include:

1. **Can:** It implies the possibility or capability of something happening.
2. **Could:** It suggests a higher degree of possibility or likelihood than "can."
3. **May:** It signifies a moderate level of possibility or probability.
4. **Might:** It indicates a lower degree of likelihood compared to "may."
5. **Must:** In this context, it suggests a strong inference that something is very likely to be true.

### **III. Usages and Examples:**

#### 1. Can:

- Usage: Expresses a general possibility or capability.
- Example: "It can rain later today."

#### 2. Could:

- Usage: Suggests a higher likelihood or possibility.
- Example: "He could be at the office by now."

3. May:

- Usage: Indicates a moderate level of probability.
- Example: "The project may be delayed due to unforeseen issues."

4. Might:

- Usage: Suggests a lower degree of likelihood.
- Example: "She might join us for dinner if she's not busy."

5. Must:

- Usage: Implies a strong inference of likelihood.
- Example: "He must be tired after working all day."

#### **IV. Differences Between Modals of Probability:**

- Can and Could: "Could" indicates a higher degree of likelihood compared to "can." It suggests a stronger possibility.
- May and Might: "Might" suggests a lower likelihood or probability compared to "may." It indicates a weaker possibility.
- Must: While typically used to express certainty, in the context of probability, it indicates a strong inference of likelihood.

#### **V. Exercises:**

A. Choose the appropriate modal of probability for each sentence from the list: can, could, may, might, must.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ have forgotten her keys at home.
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ snow tomorrow.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ be the most qualified candidate for the job.
4. The movie \_\_\_\_\_ start at 7 PM.

B. Rewrite the following sentences using a different modal of probability:

1. "She can solve the puzzle."

2. "It may rain later today."
3. "He could have missed the train."
4. "They might come to the party."

C. Create your own sentences using modals of probability to express different levels of likelihood or possibility.

## **VI. Conclusion:**

Modals of probability are essential for expressing the likelihood or possibility of events or situations in English. Understanding their differences and practicing their usage will enhance your ability to communicate effectively and express uncertainty or probability accurately in different contexts. Continue practicing to become proficient in using these modals in your everyday conversations and writing.