

MODALS REVISION

Modal verbs express **certainty, ability** or **obligation**.

Certainty	Ability	Obligation
may	can	must
might	could	should
would		ought
shall		
will		

Indicating **ABILITY** using modal verbs

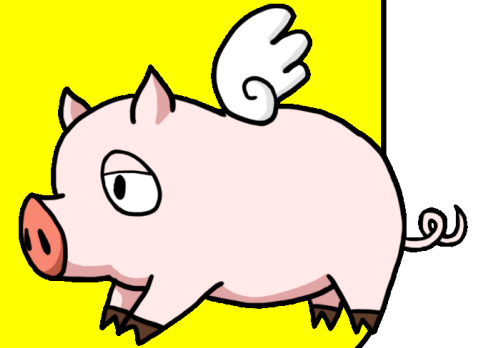
Which sentence indicates **ability**?

Pigs **might** fly.

Pigs **would** fly.

Pigs **can** fly. ✓

Pigs **must** fly.



Using modal verbs to express **CERTAINTY**

Modal verbs are useful for reporting when **facts are not certain...**

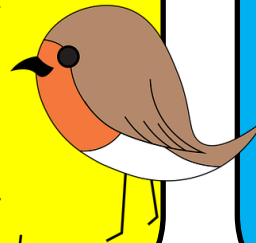
The robin **may** be looking for a new home.

The robin **might** return.

...and for showing when they **are**!

Too many tourists **would** cause confusion.

We **will** keep our doors shut in the morning!



Using modal verbs to express **OBLIGATION**

Modal verbs are useful for including **opinion** in a report.

The builders **must** be stopped.

It **should** be safe to leave my bike here.

The council **ought** to pick up the rubbish.

They are more commonly found in informal writing with opinions & in direct speech quotations from people interviewed.