

Modal verbs

Revision

Try this exercise to refresh your mind

Modal verbs revision, what are they?

- Modal verbs are special verbs which behave very differently from normal verbs. Here are some important differences:
 - Modal verbs do not take "-s" in the third person.
 - Examples:
 - He can speak Chinese.
 - She should be here by 9:00.
 - You use "not" to make modal verbs negative, even in Simple Present and Simple Past.
 - Examples:
 - He should not be late.
 - They might not come to the party.
 - Many modal verbs cannot be used in the past tenses or the future tenses.
 - Examples:
 - He will can go with us. **Not Correct**
 - She musted study very hard. **Not Correct**

Notice the usage of modals in the following sentences:

- I pay my taxes.
 - General declaration of fact. Paying taxes is something I normally do.
- I can pay my taxes.
 - Expresses ability. I have the means (funds) to pay.
- I might pay my taxes.
 - Expresses possibility, but not certainty. Maybe I will pay; maybe I won't.
- I will pay my taxes.
 - Expresses future intent. I resolve to do it at some later time.
- I should pay my taxes.
 - Expresses mild obligation. It is required, and I expect to comply.
- I could pay my taxes.
 - Expresses possibility. If I have nothing else to do with the money, I might pay taxes.
- I would pay my taxes.
 - (In this case), expresses reservation. If I had the money (but I don't). . .
- I must pay my taxes.
 - Expresses strong obligation. I am required and have to comply.