

MODAL VERBS

INGLÉS V - APU

Modal Verbs: Characteristics



- They are AUXILIARY verbs (they can be used to form negative sentences and questions)
- They are ONLY followed by an infinitive verb without “to” (this is the main verb)
- Generally, they don’t have different time or tenses (past, present, future) although there are some exceptions
- They complete the meaning of the main verb, for example, adding the idea of possibility, ability, obligation, etc.

Modal Verbs: Some meanings

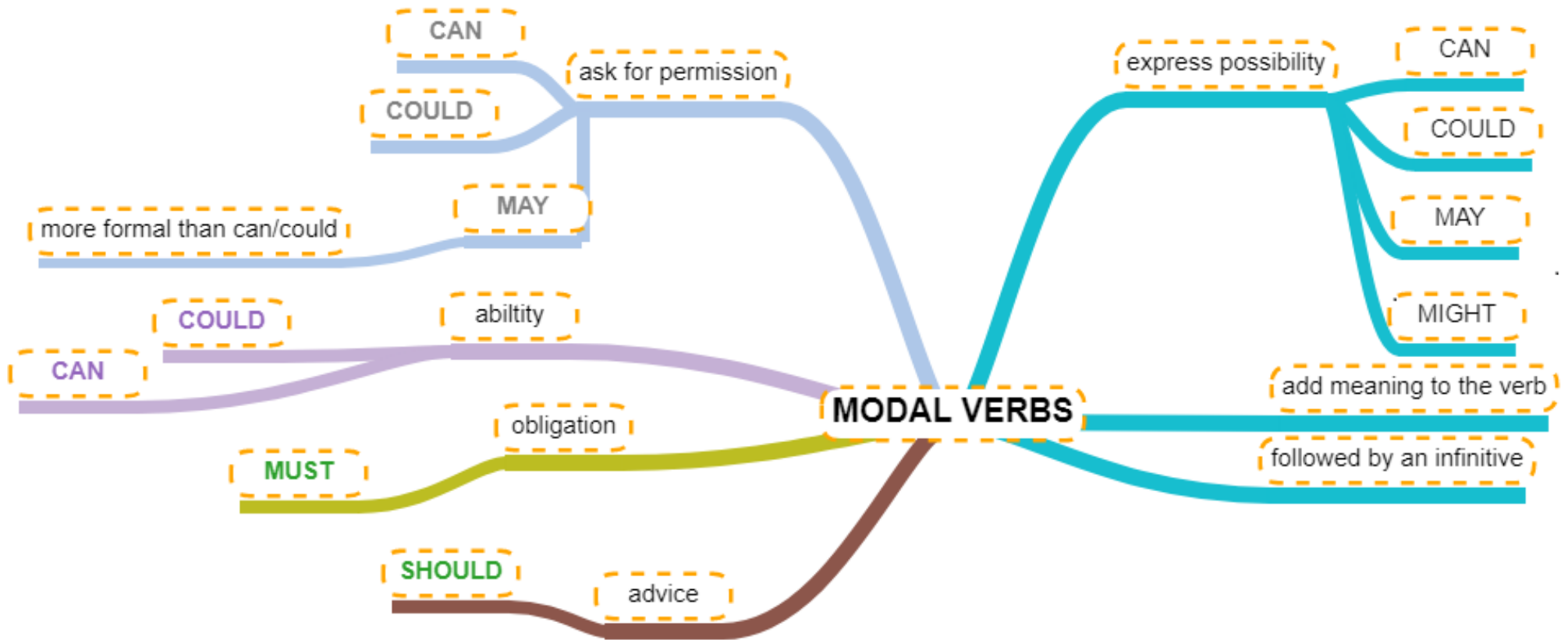


Modal verbs can be used to express different meanings:

- ❖ To ask for permission
- ❖ To express ability
- ❖ To express obligation
- ❖ To give advice or suggestions
- ❖ To express possibility

The following slide shows some examples.

Modal Verbs: Some meanings



Modal Verbs: Examples



Ability

Can you fix it?

When I was a child, I could....

Possibility

Can we debug programs using Java technology?

You *could* use C++.

You *may* finish our career on time if you make a great effort. (future)

It *might* be true. (weak possibility in the future: podría)

Obligation

You *must* close all the programs to run the antivirus.

Ask for permission

Can I answer the phone?

Could I borrow your pen drive please?

May I close the program?

Advice

You *should* run the cleaner once a month.

The image features a dark blue background with decorative teal lines in the corners. On the left side, there are three parallel vertical lines that curve inward at the top and bottom. On the right side, there are three parallel diagonal lines sloping upwards from the bottom-left towards the top-right.

LET'S PRACTICE!