Mohamed Khaider University, Biskra

Faculty of Economics, Commerce and Management Sciences

Commerce Department

Module: English
Branch: Banking Marketing
Level: Master One

Lecture 03: *The Modal Verbs*

> ➢ **Definition of Modal Verbs:**

Are used with another verb to express several intended meanings as permission, ability, possibility…and so on

➢ **Modal Verbs are:** can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, must not, have to, don't have to, be able to, ought to, had better.

➢ **These verbs:** do not change in form (they do not have ing, ed, s), and form questions and negatives without the auxiliary (to do)

- Must $\Longrightarrow$ *Strong obligation*
- Must not $\Longrightarrow$ *Prohibition*
- Have to $\Longrightarrow$ *Necessity*
- Can, be able to $\Longrightarrow$ *Ability*
- May $\Longrightarrow$ *Possibility (50%)*

Could ⎤
Might ⎦ *Remote possibility*

Don't have to ⎤
Need not ⎬ *Lack (absence) of obligation*
Don't need to ⎦

Had better ⎤
Should ⎬ *Strong advice+ Recommendation*
Ought to ⎦

- Will, would $\Longrightarrow$ *Certainty (100%)*

➢ **Expressing ability:**

1) **Can** you ride a bike?

2) He has **been able to** swim for a year

3) I **can** run four kilometres without stopping when I was yonger.

➢ **Expressing Obligation:**

1) I **must** go to the Bank today

2) We **have to** write the essay before Friday

3) She **had to** wait for him

➢ **Expressing prohibition:**

1) You **may not** take the photographs to the Museum

2) Cars **must not** park in front of enterance.

➢ **Expressing Possibility:**

1) You **may** be right

2) William **may** be upstairs

3) She **could** be famous one day

➢ **Expressing Recommendation and Advice:**

1) You **ought to** come with us. It was great

2) You **should** say that to him.

3) He really **shouldn't** work so hard since he looks exhausted.

➢ **Expressing Suggestions and invitations:**

1) **Would** you like to come with us?

2) **Shall** I carry that for you?

3) **Shall** we go out for a meal today?

➢ **Expressing permission:**

1) **Can** I go now, please?

2) **May** I use your phone, please?

3) **Can** I take this book?

➢ **Expressing Request:**

1) **Could** you open the door, please?

2) **Will** you sit down, please?

3) **Would** you come this day?