

Macbeth: Act 4

Year 5 and Year 6

Grammar Exercise

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are verbs words that change the meaning of other verbs. They are used to show whether something is certain, likely, possible or impossible.

EXAMPLE:

"Macbeth will become King of Scotland"

'will' is the modal verb here as it indicates that Macbeth will be King.

Read the example sentences in the table below. Look at how the meaning of the sentence changes depending on which modal verb is changed.

PURPOSE	EXAMPLE OF MODAL VERBS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
Likely/Permission	may, might	Macbeth might become King.
Possibility/Impossibility	can, could, can't	Macbeth could become King
Certainty	will, would	Macbeth will become King
Obligation, advice	Shall, should, must	Macbeth should become King.

Useful videos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zps4pbk>

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Year 5 and Year 6
Grammar Exercise: Modal Verbs

Modal verbs

Modal verbs are verbs that indicate likelihood, possibility, ability or obligation

Exercise 1: Underline the modal verb in each sentence

1. Macbeth couldn't sleep.
2. Macbeth should go to the witches and ask for answers.
3. Macduff must go to England to get help.
4. "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth".
5. How could a forest move?
6. Lennox thinks Macbeth will be cross with the news that Macduff has fled for England.
7. Macduff couldn't believe his family had died.
8. It would be a disaster if Macbeth remained King.
9. Macbeth should be safe.
10. Macduff can't forgive Macbeth.

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Exercise 2: Underline the modal verb/s in each sentence. Then, re write each sentence using a different modal verb and see how the meaning changes.

must	should	shall	Modal verbs would	couldn't	wouldn't
shouldn't	may	might	will	could	

1. Macbeth couldn't sleep.

Macbeth shouldn't sleep

2. Macbeth should go to the witches and ask for answers.

3. Macduff must go to England to get help.

4. How could a forest move?

5. Macduff couldn't believe his family had died.

6. Macbeth should be safe.

Answers
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Exercise 1: Underline the modal verb in each sentence

1. Macbeth couldn't sleep.
2. Macbeth should go to the witches and ask for answers.
3. Macduff must make sure he goes to England to get help.
4. "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth".
5. How could a forest move?
6. Lennox thinks Macbeth will be cross with the news that Macduff has fled for England.
7. Macduff couldn't believe his family had died.
8. It would be a disaster if Macbeth remained King.
9. Macbeth should be safe.
10. Macduff can't forgive Macbeth.

Exercise 2: Underline the modal verb/s in each sentence. Then, re write each sentence using a different modal verb and see how the meaning changes.

LOTS OF DIFFERENT MODAL VERBS COULD BE USED. AS LONG AS THEY MAKE SENSE IT'S FINE. BELOW ARE JUST SOME POTENTIAL ANSWERS

1. Macbeth couldn't sleep.
Macbeth shouldn't sleep
2. Macbeth should go to the witches and ask for answers.
Macbeth could go to the witches and ask for answers.
3. Macduff **must** go to England to get help.
Macduff should go to England to get help
4. How could a forest move?
How will a forest move?
5. Macduff couldn't believe his family had died.
Macduff didn't believe his family had died.
6. Macbeth should be safe.
Macbeth might be safe.

