

Year 5 English Assessment: Mastering Modal Verbs

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and use modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility and certainty.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers use correct British English spelling and punctuation. Write clearly in the spaces provided.

Max the monkey is planning his weekend experiments. He says, 'I will finish my maths puzzle by Saturday. I might try a new geometry pattern, or I could build a structure with wooden blocks. I must remember to tidy up afterwards, as it should be kept neat for my next project.'

Word bank: might · must · could · shall · will · should · would · may · can

1. Identify two modal verbs used by Max in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference in meaning between 'Max will finish' and 'Max might finish'. (3 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence to show a high level of certainty (obligation): 'Pip read the book.' (2 marks)

4. Circle the modal verb in this sentence: 'Nova could see the stars clearly through her telescope.' (1 mark)

5. Insert an appropriate modal verb into the gap: 'The weather looks cloudy, so we _____ take an umbrella to the park just in case.' (2 marks)

6. Explain why a writer might choose to use the modal verb 'could' instead of 'will' when describing a future event. (4 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about an adventure Ellie the elephant is planning. You must use at least four different modal verbs to describe what she might, will, should, or could do. (5 marks)

8. Change this sentence so that it expresses a possibility rather than a certainty: 'Leo is going to write a poem for the school assembly.' (3 marks)

9. Identify the modal verb in the following sentence and state what it indicates (e.g. possibility, ability, or obligation): 'Bea the bee must collect nectar to help the hive.' (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max the monkey is deciding between two different activities, using labels with modal verbs to show his choices (e.g., 'I could paint' vs 'I will play').



Extension challenge: Total: /25