

Max the Mathematical Monkey's Modal Mission

Learning objective: To identify and understand how modal verbs express degrees of possibility, necessity, and ability.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below to test your understanding of modal verbs.

Max the monkey was preparing for his annual jungle maths tournament. He sat on a sturdy branch, neatly organising his abacus and pencils. 'I must finish these equations before sunset,' Max declared, clicking his pen with determination. He looked at his notes and realised the task was tricky. 'I could try a simpler method, or I might ask Ellie for some help,' he whispered to himself. Max knew that he should practise his multiplication tables more often. 'If I focus, I will succeed,' he thought, feeling a burst of confidence. Suddenly, a bright parrot flew past. 'You can solve it, Max!' the parrot chirped. Max smiled. 'I shall do my very best,' he replied. Even though the puzzles were challenging, he knew he might win the trophy if he remained calm. Max picked up his pencil. He knew he would need to be patient. With his favourite snacks—three bananas costing £1.50—ready by his side, he began to work. By using the right words to describe his intentions, Max felt ready to face any mathematical challenge that came his way.

Word bank: Modal verb · Possibility · Certainty · Obligation · Ability · Permission

1. Find and copy two modal verbs from the first paragraph that show obligation or certainty. (2 marks)

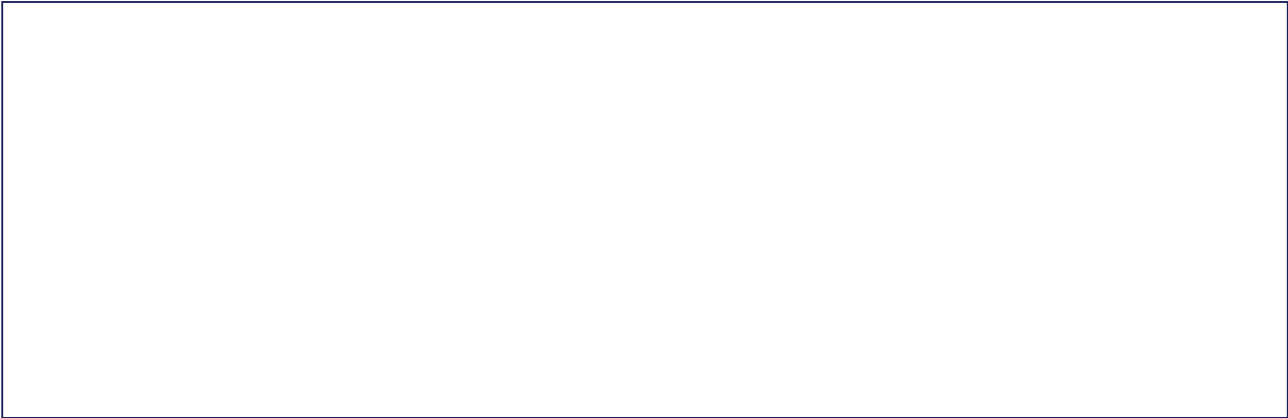
2. According to the passage, what two options does Max consider when he finds the task tricky? (2 marks)

3. Why does Max believe he 'might' win the trophy? (2 marks)

4. What does the use of the word 'must' tell us about how Max feels regarding his equations? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is well-prepared for his tournament? Use evidence from the text to justify your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting on a jungle branch with his abacus, snacks, and school supplies, looking focused and ready for his maths challenge.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences about your own plans for the weekend using at least one different modal verb in each sentence (e.g., could, might, should, will).