

Mastering Modal Verbs and Formal Tone

Learning objective: To identify, use, and distinguish between formal and informal modal verbs in writing.

Read each question carefully. Max the monkey needs your help to ensure his mathematical reports are written in a formal tone suitable for his science club. Remember to use formal vocabulary and appropriate modal verbs.

In Year 6, we often use modal verbs to show the level of certainty or obligation in our writing. Using formal modal verbs like 'must' or 'shall' helps to create a professional tone, whereas informal verbs like 'might' or 'could' can sound more conversational.

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

1. Max has written: 'I might finish the calculations by tomorrow.' Rewrite this sentence to sound more formal and certain, using a different modal verb. (2 marks)

2. Identify the modal verb in the following sentence: 'The committee shall review the findings of the experiment at noon.' Explain what this modal verb suggests about the action. (2 marks)

3. Choose the most appropriate modal verb to complete this formal instruction: 'All students _____ ensure their equipment is stored safely after the lesson.' (1 mark)

4. Rewrite the following informal request to make it sound formal: 'You can hand in your homework whenever you want.' (2 marks)

5. Create one original sentence using the modal verb 'may' to express a polite, formal possibility regarding a science project. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey wearing a scientist's lab coat, holding a clipboard and looking at a complex maths equation on a chalkboard.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining why it is important for scientists like Max to use formal language when they report their findings to the rest of the BookFlik group.