

Max's Magnificent Moon Mission

Learning objective: To understand and identify the function of modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility, ability, and obligation.

Read the story of Max the monkey's space adventure carefully. Pay close attention to the highlighted modal verbs, which show how certain Max is about his plans. Answer the questions below using full sentences and evidence from the text.

Max the monkey adjusted his shiny silver helmet. 'I must finish these final calculations before the countdown begins,' he muttered, checking his charts. He knew he could launch his homemade rocket by midday if the winds remained calm. His friend Nova the owl peered down from the observatory tree. 'You might encounter turbulence in the upper atmosphere,' Nova warned, her golden eyes wide with concern. Max nodded, his focus unwavering. 'I will ensure the navigation system is fully calibrated,' he replied confidently. 'It should reach the stratosphere within ten minutes.' Max believed that space exploration could unlock the secrets of the universe. He knew he ought to pack extra snacks, just in case the journey took longer than planned. Although the task was daunting, Max felt ready. He would prove that even a small monkey could achieve great things with enough determination. The rocket engine began to hum, vibrating against the launchpad. Max clutched his notepad. Everything had to be perfect. He might be nervous, but his curiosity was far greater than his fear. The adventure was about to begin.

Word bank: possibility · obligation · certainty · modal verb · deduction

1. Identify two modal verbs from the text that Max uses to express high levels of certainty about his mission. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what two things is Max required to do before the rocket launches? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why does Nova use the modal verb 'might' when talking to Max about the weather? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Explain why Max believes he 'ought' to pack extra snacks. What does this suggest about his planning style? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Do you think Max is well-prepared for his mission? Justify your answer using evidence from the passage. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting inside his rocket cockpit. Include labels for the different instruments he is using, and draw a thought bubble showing what he hopes to discover in space.



Extension challenge: Rewrite a paragraph of the story, changing the modal verbs to alter the tone. For example, if Max was feeling less confident, how would his choice of verbs change? Explain why your new choices convey a different sense of certainty or ability.