

**Південноукраїнський державний педагогічний
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**Методичні рекомендації
з курсу практичної граматики англійської мови
за темою “Модальні дієслова англійської мови в активному вживанні ”
для студентів 2 курсу мовних факультетів**

**Затвержено кафедрою
германської філології та
методики викладання іноземних мов
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Методичні рекомендації з курсу практичної граматики англійської мови за темою "Модальні дієслова англійської мови в активному вживанні" для студентів 2 курсу мовних факультетів / ПДПУ імені К. Д. Ушинського ; уклад. М. М. Єнакій. – Одеса : ПДПУ імені К. Д. Ушинського, 2007. – 21 с.

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Вступ

У процесі підготовки молодих кадрів неабияку роль відіграє володіння спеціалізованим знанням. Процесу удосконалення вивчення модальних дієслів в англійській мові в методолгічній літературі було присвячено немало работ. Як результат - наявність методолгічній літератури за темою в чисельних різновидах. Однак, студентам нелегко зорієнтуватися за данною темою без допомоги та керівництва викладача.

На допомогу студентам було впроваджено авторське бачення цього граматичного явища на базі розробок, представлених в методолго-педагогічній літературі з урахуванням реальних умов навчального процесу.

Методичні рекомендації „Модальні дієслова англійської мови в активному вживанні” призначені для студентів II курсу факультету іноземних мов. Мета методичних рекомендацій - вироблення навички застосування англійських модальних дієслів.

Методичні рекомендації також можна використовувати не тільки студентам, а й викладачам англійської мови.

Представлена робота складається з трьох частин : теоретичного матеріалу щодо кожного модального дієслова англійської мови.

У другій частині роботи пропонується комплекс вправ для тренування й закріплення правил, викладених у першій частині.

У третій частині роботи представлені тести для контролю отриманих знань.

Part One. Theoretical background on the material.

Can

Modal verb *can* has got two forms: *can* and *could*.

The form *could* may be used in The Past Indefinite and The Present Subjunctive.

e. g. I could read when I was five.

If I had time I could help you.

Can has the following meanings:

- Ability (physical or mental)

e. g. I can swim

I can't open the door. It's heavy.

- Possibility when depends upon circumstances:

e. g. We can see the whole city from the top of the mountain.

- Doubt, astonishment, disbelieving

e. g. In this meaning *can* is used with all the forms of the Infinitive but only in the interrogative and negative sentences.

e. g. Can this be true? Неужели это правда?

Can the man be your father? Неужели этот человек твой отец?

He can't have done this! Не может быть, чтобы он это сделал!

Note, that when the verb *can* is used in the meaning of doubt, astonishment, disbelieving the time of the action is expressed by the form of the Infinitive, not by the form of the verb *can*.

The verb *can* sounds more categoric than *could*.

e. g. He can't have said it! Не может быть, чтобы он это сказал!

He couldn't have said it! Вряд ли он это сказал.

In this meaning *can* may be used with the following words:

1. to fail

e. g. He can't have failed to see us. Не мог он нас не видеть.

2. never

e. g. She can't have never got my letter. Не может быть, чтобы она не получила моего письма.

3. with the negative pronouns *nobody*, *no one*.

e. g. Can nobody have seen him do it? Неужели никто не видел, как он это делал?

4. with negative prefixes *dis*, *mis*, *un*

She doesn't like it. Ей это не нравится.

Can she like it? Неужели ей это не нравится?

She can't dislike it! Не может быть, чтобы ей это не нравилось!

- *Can* may express a request.

e. g. Could you tell me the time, please?

May

The modal verb *may* has two forms: *may* – the Present tense and *might* – the Past tense. The form *might* is used in the Past Indefinite (mainly in reported speech) and in the Present Subjunctive.

e. g. She told me I might keep the book (the Past Indefinite).

She might be at home now (The Present Subjunctive).

May has the following meanings:

1. uncertainty, supposition.

It's used with all the forms of the Infinitive, but only in affirmative and sometimes in negative sentences.

When the action refers to the present we use an Indefinite or a Continuous Infinitive, when the action refers to the past we use a Perfect or a Perfect Continuous Infinitive.

e. g. She may be ill now - Может быть она сейчас больна.

She might be ill now –Может быть она сейчас больна.

Might implies a greater degree of uncertainty.

e. g. She might be still waiting for us.

She may have left for New York.

She may not know about it.

2. Objective possibility.

e. g. You may take the book in our library (It's possible, the book is there)

3. Giving (asking for) a permission.

e. g.

a. May I take your bracelet?

b. No, you can't. ("may not" is very rude)

In this meaning *might* sounds more polite.

4. Sometimes in emotional sentences it can express a reproach.

e. g. You may help me. You see how heavy the bag is!

You might have told me about it before!

May in its weakened meaning.

The verb *may* is used in its weakened meaning in the following cases:

- After the expressions of hope, fear, wish.
e. g. I'm afraid we may miss the train.
We hope she may get better soon.
- In clauses of purpose after "that", "so that" (*can* is also used here)
e. g. Step aside so that everyone sees the blackboard.
- In clauses of concession after "whatever", "whoever", "whenever", "wherever", "however"
e. g. Whatever you may say, I believe them.

Can and May compared

The use of the two modal verbs is parallel in two meanings: objective possibility (depends upon circumstances) and permission.

However, in the following cases they are not always interchangeable:

- In the meaning of possibility depending upon circumstances *may* is used only in affirmative sentences, whereas *can* is used in all kinds of sentences.

You may use the Internet all night long.	You can use the Internet all night long. Can you use the Internet all night long? You can't use the Internet all night long.
---	---

Their time reference is also different. *May* is referred only to the moment in present or future, *might* is used in the past-time contexts only in reported speech. *Can* may refer to the past, present or future.

e.g.

He may come today. He said he might come that day.	He can come today He could come that day. He can come tomorrow.
---	---

Both *could* and *might* combined with the perfect infinitive indicate that the action was not carried out in the past.

e.g. You could have visited us.

 You might have visited us.

- In the function of permission *may* and *can* differ in style, *may* is more formal than *can*.

e.g. May I join your company?

 Can you take me to school?

Must

The modal verb *must* has only one form.

It is used in present time contexts with reference to the present or future and in combination with the perfect infinitive it refers to the past. In past time contexts this form is used only in reported speech? I.e. the rules of the sequence of tenses are not observed with *must*.

Its meanings:

- **Obligation, necessity.**

a) due to circumstances (in this meaning it is equivalent to “have to” and is used only with the Indefinite Infinitive in affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences.

e.g. I must go.

I must talk to him before he leaves for London.

b) Something that is inevitable

e.g. Children must take care of their elderly parents.

- **A command, an urgent request.**

e.g. You must clean your room!

You mustn't talk to strangers.

Here it's used with an Indefinite Infinitive only.

- **Probability, supposition** (boarding on assurance, almost a conviction. In this meaning *must* is used with all forms of the Infinitive **in affirmative sentences only.**

e.g. He must be suffering!

It must have been nice.

In **negative sentences** supposition is expressed by means of the adverb “**probably**”

e.g. Evidently he didn't remember her birthday.

Also, in negative sentences we use the following means:

1) the verb “to fail”

e.g. He must have failed to get the tickets. Должно быть, ему не удалось достать билеты.

2) The adverb “never”.

e.g. He must have never learnt the truth. Должно быть, он так и не узнал правду.

3) Negative prefixes

e.g. He must have misunderstood you. Должно быть, он тебя превратно понял.

4) Negative pronouns:

e.g. Nobody must have told you about it. Должно быть, тебе об этом не сказали.

Supposition referring to the **future can not be expressed by must**. We use “**to be likely to**” or “**probably**”.

e.g. I'm not likely to come with you.

I'll probably come tomorrow.

- When the action refers to the present and the verb can be used in the Continuous form, we usually use a Continuous Infinitive to express supposition.

e.g. He must be getting up early.

He must be reading a lot.

Need

Need has two aspects of realization, that is it can be a notional as well as modal.

e.g. I need to buy a new pair of jeans.

You needn't go there.

Note: when **need** is used in the meaning of "to be in want of" it's treated as a notional verb and its interrogative and negative forms are built with the help of DO:

e.g. Do you need my car?

No, thank you I don't need your car.

Modal verb **need** expresses necessity. It's mostly used in negative and interrogative sentences.

e.g. You needn't be in such a fright. Take my arm. Не надо так бояться. Возьми меня под руку.

Need has only one tense form – the present. As modal? Need is more frequently used in English.

It's used both with the Indefinite and with the Perfect Infinitive.

To express lack of necessity in the past, use **needn't** + Perfect Infinitive or **didn't need to/didn't have to** + Infinitive. There is slight difference between them:

I needn't have gone to the station so early. The train was nearly an hour late. (It wasn't necessary to go to the station early but I didn't realize that and so I did get there early.)

We didn't need to/didn't have to get up early this morning as we had no lectures. (It wasn't necessary and we didn't do it.)

Have to

This verb can be of three types:

- Notional (she has two children)
- Semi-auxiliary (modal : I have to do this)
- Auxiliary (I have bought a new dress)

As a modal verb it's used in all possible tense forms and forms interrogative and negative forms with the help of auxiliary "do":

e.g. She has to do it now.

She doesn't have to do it now.

Does she have to do it now?

The meaning of the verb is circumstantial necessity.

It corresponds to the Russian "быть вынужденным, приходится"

e.g. I have to get up early.

I 'll have to do it tomorrow.

Ought to

This modal has only one form. It takes its origin from the verb "to owe".

It's always followed by an Infinitive with particle "to".

The meanings of *ought to*:

- Moral duty, obligation

e.g. You ought to visit your sick friend.

If it's followed by a Perfect infinitive, it expresses criticism of a past action.

e.g. You ought not to have told her this. Тебе не следовало рассказывать ей это.

Compare: You needn't have told her this. Зря ты ей это сказал. (Она уже это знала, потерял время.)

- Emphatic advice.

e.g. You ought to do it.

You ought to read this book.

- Supposition near certainty (= must), however very seldom used.

e.g. They ought to be at home.

Should

Can be of three types:

- Tense- auxiliary (I didn't know when I should be back)
- Modal-auxiliary (I should join you if I had time)
- Modal (as a modal verb it's used as the Present Subjunctive)

The meanings of *should*:

- Advice, recommendation
e.g. You should read newspapers every day.
- Certainty, assurance (= must, ought to)
e.g. This film should (must, ought to) be interesting as good actors star in it.

If *should* is followed by a Perfect Infinitive, it expresses criticism of a past action and corresponds to the Russian “не следовало бы, напрасно, не следовало бы”.

Emotional should

Sometimes *should* can be used for the sake of emotional coloring in the following cases:

- In special questions, beginning with” what, why, how’ .
e.g. why should I do it?
- In interrogative and exclamatory sentences with the construction “who(m) ,what ... but”
e.g. When I was going home whom I should see but Jack himself!?
- In exclamatory sentences after word denoting various feelings (surprise, indignation, astonishment)
e.g. Just imagine that he should act like this!
- Sometimes *should* can be used in declarative sentences in subordinate clauses.
e.g. I'm sorry he should suffer. Мне жаль, что он страдает.

Should in its weakened meaning

Is used in the following cases:

- In subordinate clauses after the main clause, beginning with ”it”
e.g. it's important that he should be here. Важно, чтобы он был здесь.
- In subordinate clauses after the words, expressing order, suggestion or fear
e.g. He ordered that everything should be ready by four o'clock.

- In subordinate clauses of condition to make the condition less probable. In this case it corresponds to the Russian “в случае, если; если случайно; если случится так, что”
e.g. If you should come to our city again we shall be glad to see you.

Would

When the action refers to the past we use “would” instead of “will”.

It has the following meanings:

- Absence of wish
e.g. I tried to persuade him but he wouldn't listen.
Resistance
e.g. We waited till midnight, but the rain wouldn't stop.
- A repeated past action (= to be used to)
e.g. I would wake up late in summer.

Would can be the form of the Present Subjunctive and is used to express:

- A polite request
e.g. Would you help me?
- After the verb “to wish” with the reference to the future when the subjects in the main clause and in the subordinate clause are different.
e.g. I wish you would join us!
But you shouldn't mix with: I wish you joined us tomorrow (regret).

Would and used to

- **Used to** is not a modal. It's formed like this:

I used to work here.

I didn't use to work here.

Did you use to work here?

- Use **would** and **used to** to talk about past habits:

When we were children, my brother and I *used to* fight all the time.

When we were children, my brother and I *would* fight all the time.

- When we use **would** to talk about past habit, it's necessary to use a past time reference. **Used to** can be used with or without past time reference.

e.g. I *used to* go out a lot.

Before I got this job, I *used to /would* go out a lot.

- When we talk about past situations (not actions), we can use *used to* but we can't use *would*

e.g. We *used to* live in a flat in the town centre (NOT *would*)

Shall

When it's used as a modal verb it always combines it's modal meaning with the function of the auxiliary verb, that is it's always used with the reference to future. It's not translated into Russian and is rendered by emphatic intonation. It's mostly used with 2, 3 persons and has a strong stress.

It can express:

- Compulsion or order
e.g. You shall do it!
- Threat, warning or promise
e.g. You shall be sorry for that
- Asking for instruction
e.g. Shall I read?

Will

When "will" is used as a modal verb it is mostly used with the 1 st person.

It may express:

- Will, intention
e.g. Now I will speak.
You may laugh if you will
- A polite request
e.g. Will you help me?
- Resistance or absence of wish
e.g. The door won't open
The pen won't write.
They won't answer.

Part Two – Practice

To practice here are some exercises for you to check the material.

Exercise 1. Rewrite the following using a modal. The underlined words can be written as subject + modal + verb (or modal + subject + verb in questions). In some sentences, more than one modal is possible.

1. I promise to phone you next week.

I will phone you next week.

2. At the age of nine, he still didn't know how to read.

At the age of nine he couldn't read.

3. It's essential that we leave on time tomorrow morning.

.....
.....

4. Are you able to come with me tonight ?

.....
.....

5. It's possible that they'll be here soon.

.....
.....

6. Why don't we go and see a film tonight?

.....
.....

7. He said that he intended to write to me soon.

.....
.....

8. Is it possible for me to sit here?

.....
.....

9. He refuses to give me an answer.

.....
.....

10. It's not necessary for you to apologize.

.....
.....

11. Am I allowed to smoke in here?

.....
.....

12. He knew how to speak four languages by the time he was twelve.

.....
.....

13. I intend to finish this essay before I go to bed.

.....
.....

14. He's in but he's not answering the phone. I'm sure that he's asleep.

.....
.....

15. It's 7 o'clock. I assume that Clare will be here soon.

.....
Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of *can, could* or *be able*. If it is possible to use *can, could* or *be able*, use *can, could*.

1. I love..... (spend) all morning in bed at the weekends.
2. We..... (go) to that concert .
3. Do you know where Nick's glasses are. He (not see very much) without them.
4.(speak another language) fluently is a great advantage when you're looking for a job.
5. Jonathan(not say) anything until he was three years old.
6. We(not phone her up) because her phone had broken ? but fortunately we.....get a message to her.
7. Amy's exam results weren't very good. She(do) better.
8. I(not sleep) very well for the last four nights. It's been too hot.
9. She tried to think of other things but she (not put) that awful memory out of her mind.
10. You should.....(go out) when you want to.
11.(you come) to the party on Saturday?
12. I.....(ride) this bike soon: I just need more time to practice.
13. He doesn't do very much when he's here. He(be) more helpful.
14. I(play) tennis really well a few years ago, but not any more.

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences with *can, could, may, might, will, should, ought to* or *must* and an Infinitive in the appropriate form.

1. Kerry's rather late. She(miss) the train.
2. Travellers' cheques(be exchanged) at most banks.
3. They are not answering the phone so they(be out).
4. Don't phone her now. It.....(be) in the middle of the night in Australia.
5. They(not move) in the house yet. I saw them in town this morning.
6. I haven't seen Molly this week. I think she.....(visit) her parents but I'm not sure.
7. Her exam results are coming soon. She worked very hard so she(do) very well.
8. That woman's just fallen over. Let's go and see her: she(be hurt).
9. I don't know where she is. She(not still play) tennis: it's been dark for the last hour.
10. I sent the letter two days ago so he(get) it by now, but you can never be sure.

11. The encyclopaedias(be found) on the second floor of the library.
12. Jim's been very quiet since his girlfriend went away. He.....(miss) her.
13. I.....(come and visit) you at the weekend. Anyway, I'll give you a ring to let you know.
14. She was with a man I didn't recognize. It (be) her brother because he looked a bit like her.
15. The roads are fairly quiet today so we.....(have) a good journey

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences using the modals *should, ought to, must, need,* or the verb *have to* in the correct tense and form. Put the infinitive in the appropriate form.

1. We(leave) at 11 o'clock last night because the last bus went at 11:20.
2. I don't think you.....(offer) to help him. You've got enough work to do yourself.
3. They(not pay) to stay in a hotel. They can stay with us.
4. We've been staying in a hotel for the last few weeks so we(not cook) our own meals.
5. You(come around) for dinner one evening . We haven't had a good talk for a long time.
6. We(run) all the way to the station because we were late for the train.
7.(not go) to bed so late.
8. Whythe prisoners.....(be locked) in their cells all day?
9. Hurry up. You(not have) a bath now. The taxi is coming in 20 minutes.
10. You(not tell) him what happened . He would never forgive us.
11. You(not allow) Max to walk home from school every day on his own. He's too young.
12. I don' t like(do) everything my boss tells me to do.
13. You(go) to that new French restaurant in town. It's the best restaurant I've ever been to.
14. Tom(not get up) early in the morning but everyone else in the house does.
15. If I fail any one of my exams, I.....(take) all of them in November.

Exercise 5. Write what to say using *can ,could, may, might, shall, must, would, would you like, would you mind.* There may be several possible answers.

e.g.

Offer to open the door to a stranger.

- Shall I open the door?

Ask someone to answer the phone for you.

Would you answer the phone for me, please?

1. Invite a friend to go for a swim this morning.
.....
2. Offer to make someone a sandwich.
.....
3. Request an appointment to see your bank manager, Ms Arnold.
.....
4. Give someone a permission to use your phone.
.....
5. Suggest going on a picnic this afternoon.
.....
6. Ask someone to wait here for you.
.....
7. Give your son a remission to go out but tell him to be back before dark.
.....
8. You are I a train. Ask another passenger to open the window.
.....
9. You are the teacher. Give your students permission to work outside today but tell them not to talk too much.
.....
10. Offer to answer the phone.
.....

Exercise 6. Complete the sentences with would or used to. Where either form is possible write them both. Where there us a word in brackets? Put it into a correct position.

1. I have lots of free times before I started working here.
2. In the long summer holidays, wego out somewhere with a picnic every day.
3. When I was a newly-trained teacher, I..... work till late every night preparing lessons.
4. Theybe happy together but they're not now.
5. When they came to London, they(never)travel anywhere on the tube.
6. When I had a car, Idrive everywhere, but now I'm much fitter because I always walk or cycle.
7. During my last year at University, Igo to the library to start work at 9 o'clock every morning.

8. When we shared a flat together, we(often) stay up talking late into the night.
9. When Any was a baby, people(often) come up to me and tell me how beautiful she was.
10. He.....to be overweight but he's much slimmer now.
11. When I was at school, I(never) do my weekend homework until Sunday evening.
12. I.....work in the same department as your sister.
13. When I was a teenager, I..... (often) spend the whole evening just listening to music.
14. She..... Have a lot of boyfriends when she was younger.
15. He.....go for a run every day.

Part Three. Check your knowledge.

And now here is a test to check your knowledge. You are given an hour for the test. Good luck!

Test in Practical Grammar

Modals

Name _____

1. Odd one out :
The meanings of the modal CAN are the following except _____:
 a) ability
 b) possibility
 c) permission, asking for permission
 d) request
 e) modal duty
 f) doubt, astonishment

2. A repeated past action is realized by :
 a) would
 b) could
 c) will
 d) can

3. What modal sounds more categorical:
 a) can
 b) could

4. Point the modals, expressing moral duty. Support with examples.

5. Point the modals, expressing reproach . Support with examples.

30 points

6. Circle the right translation variant.

He может быть! He мог он этого сказать:

- a) He could hardly say this.
- b) He can't have said this.
- c) He couldn't have said this.
- d) He wouldn't say this.

6. Match the English equivalent with the Russian one:

a) He can't have failed to see us.
b) He couldn't see us.

1) He мог он нас не видеть.
2) He мог он нас увидеть.

7. Circle the right translation variant.

Боюсь, что мы опоздаем на поезд:

- a) I'm afraid we can miss the train.
- b) I'm afraid we may miss the train.
- c) I'm afraid we could miss the train.
- d) I'm afraid we will miss the train.

8. Circle the right translation variant.

Он говорил по-французски как настоящий француз:

- a) He could speak French as if he were a real French.
- b) He might speak French as if he were a real French.
- c) He can speak French as if he is a real French.

9. Match the words on the left with the ones on the right:

- a) You should 1) тебе приходится
- b) You must 2) тебе следует

17. Odd one out.
- a) Can you open the window?
 - b) May I close the door?
 - c) Shall I read?
 - d) You can't act like that.
18. Correct the mistakes. Circle them.
- a) The order was that the children should have stayed away from that house.
 - b) You may grow up!
 - c) I wish I were more polite, they probably did not paid attention took , still the fact is that have made a mistake.
19. Open the brackets.
- a) The boy wouldn't believe me if _____(to tell him about it now).
 - b) You (be) _____much more polite!
 - c) Please, believe me, I _____(do) everything for you.
 - d) Oh, the results are unpredictable! I _____(omit) something!
- 35 points.**
20. Make up a mini-dialogue using Modals.

15 points.
Total: 100 points.

Sources:

1. R.V. Reznik A Grammar of Modern English Usage. – M. Flinta : Science, 1999. – 688 p.
2. Elaine Walker, Steve Elsworth New Grammar Practice. Pearson Education. – Limited X .; Harlow, England, Fifth impression, 2004. – 204 p.
3. Alexander L. G. Longman English Grammar. – Essex, England. –374 p.
4. Саакян А. С. Упражнения по грамматике современного английского языка / А. С. Саакян. – 2-е изд. – М. : Айрис-пресс, 2004. – 448 с. (Высшее образование)

