

UNIT 7 – I WAS BAD AT CRICKET

MODAL VERBS

Observe the following sentences from the story.

1. I knew I must catch it.
2. Isru could have done better.
3. I was just under the ball. I shouldn't miss.
4. Now it might come true.

The underlined words in the above sentences' express **expectations**, **possibility** and **necessity**.

These words are called Modals or Modal verbs.

From sentence (1), it is clear that 'must' expresses necessity. The modal 'must' also expresses obligation, duty, or determination, as shown in the following sentences.

- He must tell the secret. (**shows obligation**)
- We must look after our parents. (**shows duty**)
- I must complete the work today. (**shows determination**)

From sentence (2), it is clear that the modal 'could' expresses possibility. The modal 'could' also be used to make a polite request:

- Could you tell me the way to Post Office?
- The modal 'could' is used to seek permission: Could I talk to your headmaster?

Some other models are: **can, dare, may, might, ought to, will, would, shall** and **need**.

Remember, every modal is followed by another verb.

Rewrite the following sentences using 'modals' given in brackets.

1. It is likely to rain. (may)
2. Will you permit me to open the door? (may)

3. The bus is going to start in a few seconds. (will)
4. Don't touch the live wire, it may kill you. (must)
5. It is his duty to help his brother. (ought to)
6. It is necessary for us to protect the trees. (should)

SUGGESTED ANSWER

1. It is likely to rain. (may)
 - It may rain.
2. Will you permit me to open the door? (may)
 - May I open the door?
3. The bus is going to start in a few seconds. (will)
 - The bus will start in a few seconds.
4. Don't touch the live wire, it may kill you. (must)
 - You must not, it may kill you.
5. It is his duty to help his brother. (ought to)
 - He ought to help his brother.
6. It is necessary for us to protect the trees. (should)
 - We should protect the trees.

II. What does each of the following sentences mean?

Tick (✓) the correct option given in brackets.

1. Could I use your pen? (ability/ possibility/ polite request)
2. He can climb the tree. (capacity/ possibility/ request)
3. Will you have a cup of coffee? (capacity/ offer/ request)
4. We shall visit Hyderabad next week. (ability/ permission/ futurity)
5. We must do this now. (obligation/ futurity/ request)

SUGGESTED ANSWER

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