

I went outside and wandered around the garden; it was massive. There was a large lawn which would be good for practising my football skills (if I could get hold of a ball), and there was a sunken garden with a rockery, winding paths and an ornamental water feature. But my favourite bit was a large weeping willow, its branches touching the ground around it. When you went through the dangling branches, it was like being inside a giant green teepee. Surrounded by the green foliage, it was very peaceful, and I was able to think clearly and make up my mind what I should do next.

The lady (she hadn't told me her name) seemed cold and distant, and her rules seemed very strict and unfair. For a few days though, I could see myself being comfortable enough there, for I wasn't planning on staying for long. They were obviously a very wealthy family; I should be well fed at least. I was very impressed with the size of the house and the huge garden. It was a far cry from the three-bedroomed terraced house with a tiny backyard that I was used to. But somehow I had to get back to my house in Hulme (or what was left of it). Somewhere in the ruins was my mobile and I was sure that my mobile held the secret to returning to my world in the future. As soon as I could, I would have to return to Manchester and look for it in the ruins.

"Ah! I thought I might find you here," said a large, jolly-faced woman who had poked her head through the branches. "Madam said for you to wash and change for dinner." She introduced herself as Mrs Carter and told me that along with her other duties she was the cook; her husband was the chauffeur, the gardener and general handyman. I followed her into the house by a back entrance and she showed me the kitchen where I would eat breakfast and have lunch with her. "Now, when you eat with the Lloyds be sure to remember your manners," she told me before sending me upstairs to my bedroom.

Opposite the bedroom was a bathroom where I washed my hands. Returning to the bedroom, I looked inside the case. Mrs Lloyd had told me to change for dinner, but I had already changed into the only other top I had. What did she expect me to wear? I put the grey pullover back on and combed my hair, hoping that would satisfy her.

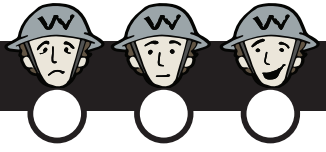


I went back down the stairs and when I reached the hall I was once again unsure which door to go into. I decided to try the drawing room, this time remembering to knock before I entered. A door opened behind me on the other side of the hall. "We eat in the dining room; not the drawing room," Mrs Lloyd told me in her superior manner. I followed her in. A man, I presumed to be her husband, was sitting at the far end of a large table reading a newspaper. He looked up over the top of his paper.

"Duncan, is it? Well, sit down, young man. I hope you're hungry. Mrs Carter has prepared a veritable feast for you."



Name: _____



I can use modal verbs to show politeness.

Modal verbs are used for lots of different things. We have seen how modal verbs are often used to show degrees of possibility. In the passage there are a number of examples:

I thought I might find you here.
I should be well fed at least.

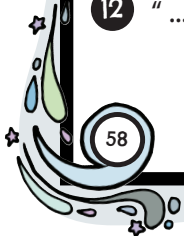
We can also use certain modal verbs, especially the past forms of the modal verbs **can, shall** and **will (could, should** and **would)**, to be more polite. The modal verb **may** and its past form **might** are an exception because **may** is usually considered to be a politer form than **might**.

Mrs Carter entered the dining room and began to serve dinner. The Lloyds spoke in a very formal and polite manner. Drew tried hard to be as formal and polite as they were.

Choose the most appropriate modal verb to complete the sentence.

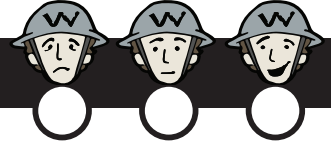
- 1 "You sit next to me," said Mr Lloyd. can will may
- 2 " you pass the salt?" said Mrs Lloyd. might would can
- 3 " you like the beef or the pork?" asked Mrs Carter. do will would
- 4 " you pass me the gravy, please?" said Mr Lloyd. can could might
- 5 " you mind getting me a glass of water?" asked Mrs Lloyd. would should do
- 6 " I ask for some more butter?" requested Mr Lloyd. should may can
- 7 "I'm very hungry. I have some more, please?" asked Drew. can could may
- 8 "You pass me that plate, could you?" asked Mrs Lloyd. couldn't wouldn't won't
- 9 " we find a new school for you?" asked Mr Lloyd. will shall should
- 10 "I think I like that, thank you," replied Drew. would won't will
- 11 "I'm going to have a smoke, if I ?" said Mr Lloyd. might may could
- 12 " I be excused?" asked Drew, remembering to be polite. can could may

Extension Continue the conversation choosing modal verbs to express politeness.





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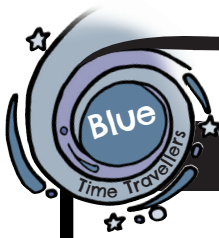
We can also use certain modal verbs, especially the past forms of the modal verbs **can**, **shall** and **will** (**could**, **should** and **would**), to be more polite. The modal verb **may** and its past form **might** are an exception because **may** is usually considered to be a politer form than **might**.

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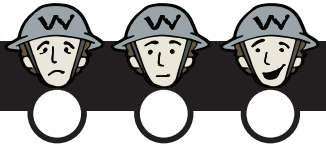
Choose the most appropriate modal verb to complete the sentence.

- 1 "You sit next to me," said Mr Lloyd. *can* *will* *may* *could*
- 2 " you pass the salt?" said Mrs Lloyd. *may* *would* *shall* *can*
- 3 " you like the beef or the pork?" asked Mrs Carter. *do* *shall* *will* *would*
- 4 " you pass me the gravy, please?" said Mr Lloyd. *can* *could* *might* *can't*
- 5 " you mind getting me a glass of water?" asked Mrs Lloyd. *would* *should* *do* *will*
- 6 " I ask for some more butter?" requested Mr Lloyd. *should* *may* *can* *would*
- 7 "I'm very hungry. I have some more, please?" asked Drew. *might* *can* *could* *may*
- 8 "You pass me that plate, could you?" asked Mrs Lloyd. *couldn't* *wouldn't* *won't* *could*
- 9 " we find a new school for you?" asked Mr Lloyd. *will* *may* *shall* *should*
- 10 "I think I like that, thank you," replied Drew. *would* *won't* *will* *might*
- 11 "I'm going to have a smoke, if I?" said Mr Lloyd. *might* *may* *could* *can*
- 12 " I be excused?" asked Drew, remembering to be polite. *can* *could* *should* *may*

Extension Continue the conversation choosing modal verbs to express politeness.



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Modal verbs are used for lots of different things. We have seen how modal verbs are often used to show degrees of possibility. In the passage there are a number of examples:

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Choose the most appropriate modal verb from the box below to complete the sentences. (Try to use one of each pair at least once.)

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| can/could | shall/should | will/would | may/might | can't/couldn't |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------------|

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