

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Functions of Modal Verbs

**Modal auxiliaries** are helping verbs that express ideas such as ability, possibility, permission, necessity, or prediction.

|          |          |           |        |             |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| A. could | B. will  | C. would  | D. may | E. ought to |
| F. might | G. shall | H. should | I. can |             |

**Match the modal auxiliaries above to their functions.**

- Used to express ability, willingness, permission, or possibility. \_\_\_\_\_
- Used to express permission or possibility. \_\_\_\_\_
- The past tense of can. \_\_\_\_\_
- Used when you are volunteering to do something in the future. \_\_\_\_\_
- Functions as the past tense of will. \_\_\_\_\_
- Functions as the conditional mood of will. \_\_\_\_\_
- Can replace can and give the phrase a more conditional tone. \_\_\_\_\_
- Used to express slightly less possibility. \_\_\_\_\_
- Used when you are deciding at the time of speaking to do something in the future. \_\_\_\_\_
- Used to be polite. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Functions of Modal Verbs – Answer Key

**Modal auxiliaries** are helping verbs that express ideas such as ability, possibility, permission, necessity, or prediction.

|          |          |           |        |             |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| A. could | B. will  | C. would  | D. may | E. ought to |
| F. might | G. shall | H. should | I. can |             |

**Match the modal auxiliaries above to their functions.**

- Used to express ability, willingness, permission, or possibility. **A, I**
- Used to express permission or possibility. **D, F, I**
- The past tense of can. **A**
- Used when you are volunteering to do something in the future. **B, G**
- Functions as the past tense of will. **C**
- Functions as the conditional mood of will. **C**
- Can replace can and give the phrase a more conditional tone. **A, F**
- Used to express slightly less possibility. **F**
- Used when you are deciding at the time of speaking to do something in the future. **B, G**
- Used to be polite. **A, C, F**