การใช้ Will / Would, Can / Could, May / Might, Need / Must / Have to / Ought to

These are the modal verbs in English:

can	could	may	might	will
would	must	shall	should	ought to

What are modal verbs?

A modal verb is a type of verb that is used to indicate: likelihood, ability, permission, request, capacity, suggestions, order, obligation, or advice.

Modals are different from normal verbs:

1. They don't use an 's' for the third person singular.

2. They make questions by inversion.

('she can go' becomes 'can she go?').

3. They are followed directly by the infinitive of another verb (without 'to').

CAN:

The three main uses of Can are:

1) ability

To express ability

Can means to be (physically) able to do something OR to know how to do something.

Birds **can** fly.

Elephants **can't** fly.

I **can** speak two languages.

2) possibility

To express a possibility (in general)

Note: we don't use can to talk about future possibilities. For this you would use may or might.

I know you **can** win the competition.

3) permission

        3.1 To offer to do something for others

            Can I carry your bags for you?

        3.2 To ask for or give permission / To request something

            Can I sit in that chair please?

CAN'T:

Something that is forbidden or not allowed

        You **can't** smoke in the restaurant.

When you are sure that something isn't true or something is surprising.

        It **can't** be dark outside! It's only 4.30 pm!

COULD:

Could is similar to Can and often replaces Can in the past tense *(though not always)*

    1. To express ability in the past

        He **could** read when he was three years old.

    2. Polite word used to ask for permission or to request something (in the present)

        Could you pass me the salt, please?

    3. General permission in the past

        He **couldn't** go to the concert because his mother wouldn't let him.

    4. A suggestion when asked what to do (choices and opportunities)

        He **could** try and fix it himself.

COULDN'T:

Sure that something is untrue Just like can't, you can use couldn't when you are sure that something isn't true or real.

        He **couldn't** have painted that. He can't paint at all.