Introduction to modal verbs

Introduction

Some facts about modal auxiliary verbs:

1. **They do not have an infinitive form.**

can ✅
to can ❌

2. **We use them before other verbs to give more information. We use the bare infinitive of the main verb. We do not use 'to' after a modal.**

I can swim. ✅
I can to swim. ❌

3. **We use 'not' for the negative form**

I can't swim. ✅
I don't can swim. ❌

and we do not use 'do' in questions.

Can you swim? ✅
Do you can swim? ❌

4. **Modals have only one form.**

I can
You can
He/she/it can
We can
They can

A list of modal auxiliary verbs

Can
Could
May

Might
Must
Shall
Should
Will
Would

Uses

Modal auxiliary verbs have different meanings. This table shows <u>some common</u> uses.

See the rules on each modal for more detailed information.

	can	can't	could	may	might	must	mustn't	have to	will	would	shall	should	ought to
ability	✕	✕	✕										
advice						✕	✕	✕				✕	✕
deduction		✕				✕		✕	✕			✕	✕
expectation												✕	✕
habit									✕	✕			
hypothetical										✕			
necessity						✕		✕					
obligation						✕		✕					
offers	✕			✕							✕		
permission	✕	✕		✕									
possibility	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕								
prediction									✕				
prohibition							✕						
requests	✕		✕	✕					✕	✕			
suggestions											✕		
wishing			✕							✕			