

Modal verbs: Basic level

Modal verbs are not used as main verbs. They are auxiliary verbs and can only be used with a main verb. They change the idea of the main verb. Example: will talk, might talk, should talk, must talk may talk

Modal **verbs** used to show the likelihood of something happening (certain, possible or impossible). They are also used in **Forever Fairies** when characters talk about their abilities, ask permission, make requests or choices and show something is necessary.

The main English **modal verbs** are can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will and would. Other **verbs** are sometimes categorised as modals: these include ought, had better, dare, used to and need to.

Modal verbs have negative forms. These forms are either uncontracted or contracted.

Modal verb	Uncontracted negative	Contracted negative	Indicates
<i>can</i>	<i>cannot (usually written as one word)</i>	<i>can't</i>	<i>request, permit, possibility, opportunity</i>
<i>could</i>	<i>could not</i>	<i>couldn't</i>	<i>ability, suggestion, request, possibility</i>
<i>may</i>	<i>may not</i>		<i>request or give permission, possibility</i>
<i>might</i>	<i>might not</i>	<i>mightn't</i>	<i>possibility, suggestion, request</i>
<i>will</i>	<i>will not</i>	<i>won't</i>	<i>promise, predict, volunteer action, conditional</i>
<i>shall</i>	<i>shall not</i>	<i>shan't</i>	<i>volunteer, suggest, promise, predict</i>
<i>would</i>	<i>would not</i>	<i>wouldn't</i>	<i>past of will, repetition, offer, request, conditional</i>
<i>should</i>	<i>should not</i>	<i>shouldn't</i>	<i>Obligation, advice, recommend or expect</i>
<i>must</i>	<i>must not</i>	<i>mustn't</i>	<i>certainty, prohibit- (as in must not), strong recommendation, necessity</i>

In **Forever Fairies** modal verbs are used:

- (a) to show a character believes something is certain, possible or impossible.
- (b) **The negative forms are often contracted.**

*And now you **must** farewell your human friends. Page 158 (certain)*

*You **might** frighten it away or you **might** hurt it when you rush about. Page 3 (possible)*

*I **can't** make it out. Page 11 (impossible)*

- (c) They are also used when a character talks about abilities, asks permission and makes requests, offers suggestions and volunteers.

*Maybe we **should** put her back where we found her. Page 12 (degree of obligation)*

*This is what we **should** do. Page 30 (recommendation)*

***Can** you take the tray to him? Page 35 (request)*

***Would** you like some honey-cake? Page 79 (offer)*

Chapter one: Welcome to the backyard		
It was so rare the twins couldn't identify it.	contracted negative of could - degree of certainty	Page 1
'I can see something white,' she whispered.	degree of certainty	Page 3
Chapter two: The fairy without a name		
'They should know she's here with us.'	degree of expectation	Page 14
'All right, but you won't like this, so prepare yourself,' said Leandra.	prediction	Page 17
'I should probably go downstairs into the yard for a while.'	obligation	Page 22
Chapter three: The outsider		
That would be horrible.	past of <i>will</i>	Page 33
' Can you take the tray to him?'	request	Page 35

Chapter four: <i>Where can she be?</i>		
'It wouldn't be right,' Leandra said.	contracted negative past of will	Page 44
That way, she would not frighten her and it would be ready for when she awoke.	uncontracted negative past of will, and past of will	Page 44
Chapter five: <i>A shared secret</i>		
'I will have to return to my gardening before the rain comes.'	Conditional / returning to garden is conditional on rain coming	Page 65
'We believe and we would like to know what you think,' she added.	request	Page 66
Chapter six: <i>Fairies like to play</i>		
' Would you like some honey-cake?'	offer	Page 79
'There must be something we can do?'	must-certainty, can-opportunity if you can change can to 'able to do' ...something we are able to do .	Page 83
'I would like you to have the marble,' said Luka.	offer	Page 88
Chapter seven: <i>Backyard quest</i>		
Leandra couldn't remember a time when Luka wasn't hungry.	contracted negative – degree of certainty	Page 100
'That might be so, Luka.'	possibility	Page 100
...Luka could see what appeared to be a mouth and two eyes.	degree of certainty	Page 104

Chapter eight:		
<i>Luka, where are you?</i>		
Whatever it was they could hear it coming from above.	degree of certainty	Page 111
' I cannot touch it.'	uncontracted negative of can – degree of certainty	Page 112
'I promise I will help you Luka,' yelled Little Fairy.	promise	Page 112
Chapter nine:		
<i>Granwick, the mischievous fairy</i>		
You and Luka must be nine by now, at least,' he said.	degree of certainty	Page 116
'You must hurry Leandra.'	strong recommendation	Page 117
' We will come back for you.'	promise	Page 117
Chapter ten: <i>Truly a fairy</i>		
The Little Fairy showed Leandra how she should do it.	advice	Page 126
'When he is out of the ring he will be exhausted and want to rest.'	prediction	Page 126
'I will use the twig,' cried Leandra.	volunteer action	Page 132
Chapter eleven: <i>Grandpa, we found you</i>		
'To drink from its ever-flowing water means a fairy can stay in the human world...'	opportunity	Page 141
'But first we must find a safe-haven.'	strong recommendation	Page 144
She will give us her assistance.	volunteer action	Page 144

