

ESL Lesson Plan: Modals with the infinitive

Time: 60 minutes

Level: Beginner to intermediate (A2-B2)

Topic: Using modals with the infinitive

Objective:

- Students will understand how to use modals with the infinitive verb form (e.g., can go, should do, must see).
- Students will practice forming sentences using modals and infinitives.

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers or digital presentation tools.
- Worksheets with sentences for practice.
- Flashcards (optional).

1. Warm-Up (10 minutes)

- Objective: Activate prior knowledge about modals.
- Activity: "Modals Memory Game"
 - Write several modals (e.g., can, must, should, might, may, could, would) on the board.
 - Ask students to take turns recalling a sentence using one of these modals. For example, "I can swim" or "She must study."
 - Encourage students to say the sentences aloud and correct any mistakes.

2. Introduction to modals + infinitive (15 minutes)

- Objective: Introduce the structure of modals with the infinitive form of verbs.
- Explanation:
 - Write the following sentence structures on the board:
 - [Subject] + [Modal] + [Base Verb (Infinitive)]
 - Example: *She can study English.*
 - Modals can be used with the infinitive form of verbs to express ability, necessity, permission, or possibility.
- Examples:
 - Can + Infinitive:
 - I *can* play the piano.
 - They *can* come to the party.
 - Must + Infinitive:
 - You *must* do your homework.
 - We *must* leave now.
 - Should + Infinitive:
 - You *should* eat more vegetables.
 - He *should* read more books.
 - Might/May + Infinitive (for possibility):
 - She *might* go to the concert.
 - It *may* rain tomorrow.
- Ask the students to identify the modals in the sentences and explain what they mean (e.g., can expresses ability, must expresses necessity, etc.).

3. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

- Objective: Practice forming sentences with modals and infinitives.
- Activity 1: Fill-in-the-Blank Exercise

- Prepare sentences with missing modals. Students must choose the correct modal for each sentence and fill it in.

- Example sentences:

1. You _____ (can) finish this task tomorrow.
2. He _____ (must) go to the doctor.
3. We _____ (should) take a break soon.
4. They _____ (might) visit us next weekend.

Activity 2: Pair Work

- Students work in pairs and create their own sentences using modals and infinitives.
- Each student should write 5 sentences using different modals (can, must, should, might, etc.).
- Afterward, students share their sentences with the class.

4. Independent Practice (10 minutes)

- Objective: Reinforce learning by applying it to real-world situations.
- Activity: "What Should I Do?"
 - Give each student a scenario where they have to use modals and infinitives to give advice or suggest actions.
 - Example scenarios:
 - You are feeling sick. What should you do?
 - You have a lot of homework. What can you do?
 - It's raining outside. What might happen?
 - Students respond using modals in the infinitive form. For example:
 - You should rest and drink water.
 - You can study in the library tomorrow.
 - It might be dangerous to drive in this rain.

5. Wrap-Up and Review (5 minutes)

- Objective: Summarize key concepts and check for understanding.
- Activity: Class Discussion
 - Ask the students to share one sentence they wrote or created during the lesson.
 - Correct any mistakes and encourage self-correction.
 - Reinforce the use of modals and infinitives in everyday situations.

Homework (Optional):

- Write a short paragraph (5–6 sentences) about their weekend plans, using at least three different modals (e.g., can, must, might).

Assessment:

- During the lesson, assess students' understanding through their participation in guided practice, pair work, and independent practice activities.
- Review the sentences they share in class and correct any misunderstandings.