

Lesson Plan: Modals – Should, could, would

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Topic: Making suggestions, offers, and hypotheticals

Grammar Focus: Modals – should, could, would

Skills Practiced: Speaking, listening, reading, writing

Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand the difference between *should*, *could*, and *would*
- Use each modal correctly in context
- Make suggestions, talk about possibilities, and express hypothetical situations

Materials

- Whiteboard or slides
- Handouts (gap-fill, dialogues)
- Audio or video clip (optional)
- Flashcards or scenario prompts

Warm-Up (10 mins)

Activity: "Advice Chain"

1. Write on the board: "I have a headache."

2. Ask: "What should I do?"
3. Elicit response: "You should take a rest."
4. Continue around the class in a chain with different problems.
 - E.g., "I lost my phone." / "I can't sleep."

Presentation (10 mins)

Explain with examples:

| Modal | Use | Example |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|
| Should | Advice or recommendation | You should eat more vegetables. |
| Could | Possibility or polite suggestion | We could go to the beach today. |
| Would | Hypothetical or polite offer | I would help you if I could. |

Tip: Emphasize tone and context – "could" is more tentative, "would" is often used in conditionals.

Guided Practice (15 mins)

Activity 1: Gap Fill Exercise

Students fill in the blanks using should, could, or would.

Examples:

- If I were you, I ___ call him.
- You ___ study for the test.
- We ___ go to Italy next summer.

Activity 2: Dialogue Match-Up

Provide half of dialogues using modals. Students walk around matching pairs.

Example:

A: "I'm bored." → B: "You could watch a movie."

Production (15 mins)

Activity: Role Plays – Real Life Scenarios

In pairs or small groups, students receive a situation card and role-play giving suggestions or expressing hypothetical responses.

Examples:

- Your friend wants to quit his job. Give him advice.
- You're planning a trip. Discuss what you could do.
- You won the lottery. What would you buy?

Review & Wrap-Up (5 mins)

- Recap differences between the three modals.
- Ask a few students: What did you learn today?
- Optional exit ticket: One sentence using each modal.

Homework (Optional)

- Write 5 sentences (one for each modal, plus 2 extra using conditionals or more complex structure).