# Spot the modal verb: answers

What your child practised: what a modal verb is, and finding it in a sentence, even at the start of a question (Year 5 grammar).

### Page 1 · Warm up

**will** · **could** · **Can**

### Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Each modal verb should sit just before a main verb in its plain form (or start a question).

### Page 2 · A. Modal verb and main verb

1 **should** · arrive  2 **can** · swim
3 **must** · be  4 **may** · visit
5 **Would** · pass  6 **Might** · stop

### Page 3 · B. Questions

1 **Should** we leave now?
2 **Can** Mia play the drums?
3 **Will** the dog need a walk?

### Page 3 · C. Modal verb?

could: **yes** · climbed: **no** · must: **yes**
want: **no** · Shall: **yes**

### Page 3 · D. Sentences about tomorrow

Answers will vary, for example: *It might be windy. I will see my friends.* Check the modal comes before a plain main verb.

**Challenge:** No. **Snow** is the main verb: it's the action. **Could** is the modal verb: it helps "snow" and shows it is possible. Take "could" out ("It snows tonight") and the meaning changes.

### Watch out for

- **Picking the main verb**, like "rain" instead of "might". Ask: "Which word is helping the action?"
- **Missing the modal in a question**, like "Should we go?". Turn it into a statement ("We should go") and the modal appears next to the main verb.
- **Ordinary verbs like want, need or like.** They aren't modal verbs: they change their endings (wants, wanted) and are usually followed by "to".

### Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Take it out:** say a sentence with a modal ("We must hurry"), then without it. What changes?
- **Question flip:** say a statement with a modal; your child turns it into a question.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Might, should, will, must: ordering modal verbs by possibility.