hamlet

ACT 4

year 5 and 6 Grammar: MODAL VERBS

**Modal verbs are verbs words that change the meaning of other verbs. They are used to show whether something is certain, likely, possible or impossible.**

**EXAMPLE:**

**"Laertes will kill Hamlet"**

'will' is the modal verb here as it indicates that Laertes will kill Hamlet

**Read the example sentences in the table below. Look at how the meaning of the sentence changes depending on which modal verb is changed.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PURPOSE** | **EXAMPLE OF MODAL VERBS** | **EXAMPLE SENTENCE** |
| **Likely/Permission** | **may, might** | **Laertes might kill Hamlet** |
| **Possibility/Impossibility** | **can, could, can’t** | **Laertes could kill Hamlet** |
| **Certainty** | **will, would** | **Laertes will kill Hamlet** |
| **Obligation, advice** | **Shall, should, must** | **Laertes should kill Hamlet** |

**Useful videos: https://**[**www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zps4pbk**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/zps4pbk)

hamlet

ACT 4

year 5 and 6 Grammar: MODAL VERBS

**Modal verbs are verbs that indicate likelihood, possibility, ability or obligation**

# Exercise 1: Underline the modal verb in each sentence

1. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern couldn’t stop talking.
2. The boat should leave now.
3. Laertes must fight Hamlet.
4. Laertes might kill Hamlet.
5. How could Hamlet have killed Polonius?
6. Hamlet is furious as he thinks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern might have been disloyal to him.
7. Horatio couldn’t believe Hamlet was still in Denmark!
8. It would be a disaster if Hamlet arrived in England.
9. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern might realise their mistake.
10. Laertes can’t forgive Hamlet.

# Exercise 2: Re write each sentence using a different modal verb and see how the meaning changes.

**must**

**should**

**shall**

**Modal verbs would**

**couldn’t**

**wouldn’t**

**shouldn’t**

**may**

**might**

**will**

**could**

1. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern couldn’t stop talking.

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1. The boat should leave now.

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1. Laertes must fight Hamlet.

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1. Laertes might kill Hamlet.

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1. How could Hamlet have killed Polonius?

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1. Hamlet is furious as he thinks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern might have been disloyal to him.

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1. Horatio couldn’t believe Hamlet was still in Denmark!

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1. It would be a disaster if Hamlet arrived in England.

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1. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern might realise their mistake.

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1. Laertes can’t forgive Hamlet.

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HAMLET

ACT 4

year 5 and 6 Grammar: MODAL VERBS

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10. Laertes can’t forgive Hamlet.

# Exercise 2: Now re write each sentence using a different modal verb and see how the meaning changes.

LOTS OF DIFFERENT MODAL VERBS COULD BE USED. AS LONG AS THEY MAKE SENSE IT’S FINE. BELOW ARE JUST SOME POTENTIAL ANSWERS

1. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern wouldn’t stop talking.
2. The boat mightleave now.
3. Laertes should fight Hamlet.
4. Laertes could kill Hamlet.
5. How would Hamlet have killed Polonius?
6. Hamlet is furious as he thinks Rosencrantz and Guildenstern might have been disloyal to him.
7. Horatio shouldn’t believe Hamlet was still in Denmark!
8. It should be a disaster if Hamlet arrived in England.
9. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern will realise their mistake.
10. Laertes won’t forgive Hamlet.