

# Modal Auxillary Verbs (Modals)

## ELACC4L1

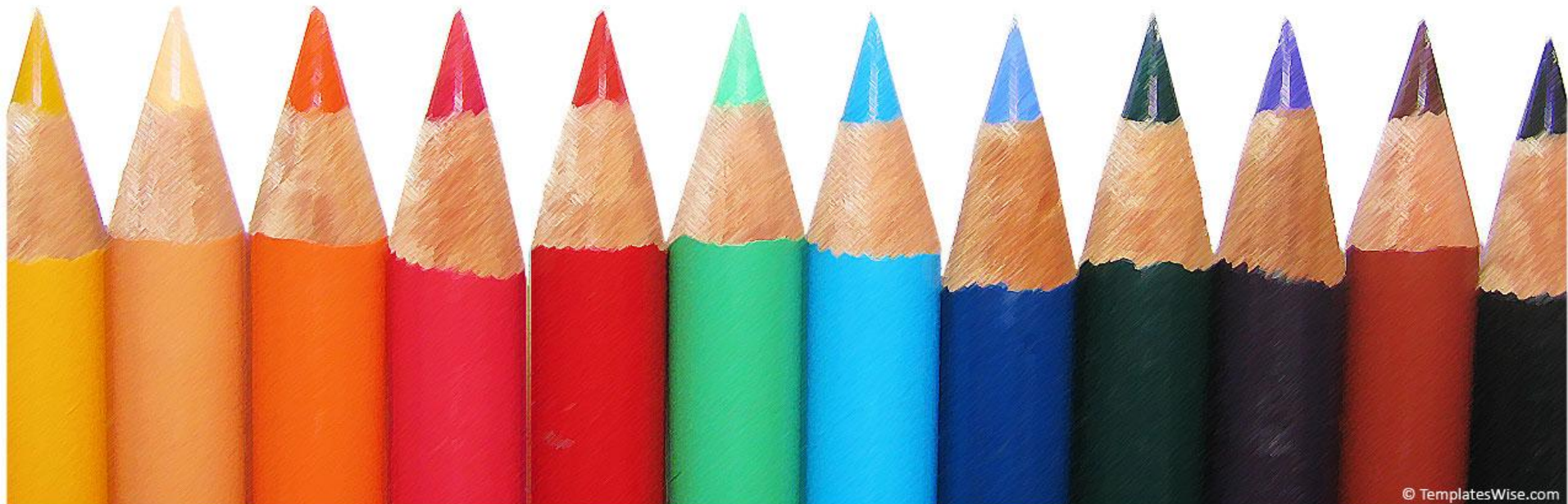
Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can*, *may*, *must*) to convey various conditions.

## Essential Questions

What are modal verbs?

How do I recognize modal verbs?

How do I know when to use modal verbs when I write?



# What are Modal Verbs?

**Modals** are special **helping verbs**. They are used with other verbs to express things that have not actually happened.

- Modals are used to show ability, possibility, or necessity.
- Modals are also used to ask for permission or to offer a suggestion.

# What are Modal Verbs?

Common modals include

- *may/might*
- *can/could*
- *shall/should*
- *will/would*
- *must*





# What are Modal Verbs?



## ABILITY

I ***could*** spend all my money in this candy store.

## POSSIBILITY

Kasper ***might*** go on an adventure in the jungle.

## NECESSITY

Gina ***must*** finish her chores before company arrives.

## PERMISSION

***May*** I borrow a pencil?

## SUGGESTION

Vicki ***should*** rest because she has a cold.

## REQUEST

***Would*** you help me wash the dishes?

# Can versus May

**May refers to permission.**

**Can refers to ability.**

“Can I sharpen my pencil, Mrs. Mashburn?”

“I don’t know, can you?”



“May I sharpen my pencil, Mrs. Mashburn?”

“Yes, you may!”

# Name that Modal Verb

**ABILITY**      *can/could*

**POSSIBILITIES**      *may/might*

**NECESSITY**      *must*

**PERMISSION**      *may*

**SUGGESTION**      *shall/should*