2. Halbjahr 2026
English Intensive Week A2 Refresher
262-40691, Mo-Fr, 08.45 – 14.00 Uhr

vhs Volkshochschule Rhein-Sieg

Modal verbs

can, could, should, would, must, may, might

Modal verbs express possibility, ability, permission, obligation, recommendation or wishes. They can also be used for speculating.

Modal verbs -

- do not have an infinitive with *to*
- can only form a sentence if followed by another verb in the base form (infinitive without *to*)

*I **can speak** Spanish.*

- do not change their form (there is no *s* in the third person singular)
- form questions and negations without the auxiliary verb *to do*

***Can** you swim? - I **can't** swim.*

- cannot be used in all tenses and cannot be combined with other modal verbs; because of this, alternative modal expressions exist

The negative form of must - ***mustn't*** - means ***not to allowed to*** (not ***don't have to***)

You are **not obliged** to read my email.

*I sent you an email, but you **don't have to** read it.*

*You can ask me any question, but you **must not** read my emails.*

You are **not allowed** to read my email.

- are used like auxiliaries in question tags

*He cannot speak French, **can** he?*