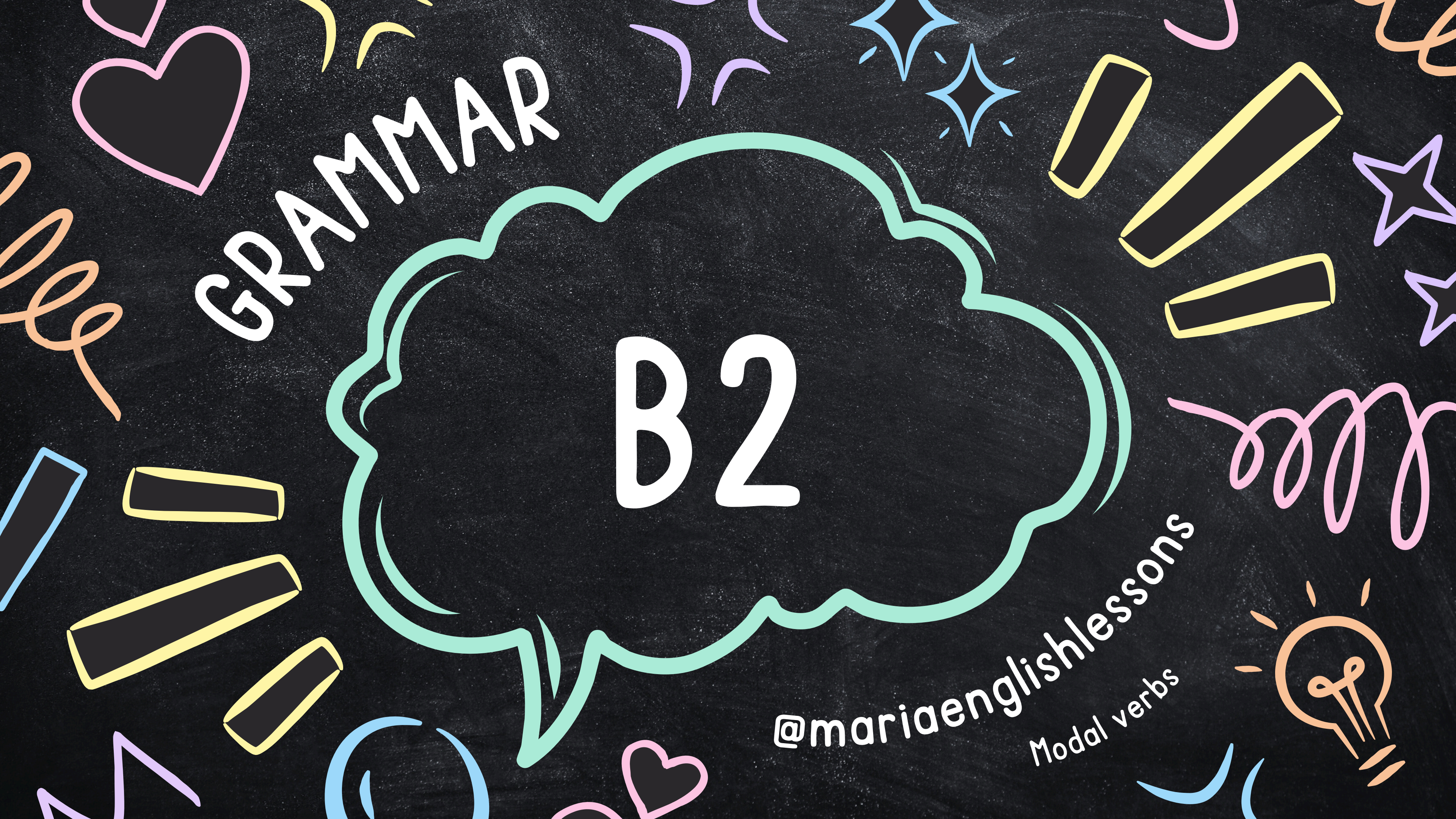


GRAMMAR

B2

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Modal verbs



INTRODUCTION

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs that express the speaker's attitude toward the action, such as certainty, possibility, obligation, permission, ability, or necessity. They are followed by the base form of the verb (e.g., can go, must leave).

Main Characteristics of Modal Verbs:

1. No -s, -ing, or -ed forms (He can, not He cans).
2. The structure is the same for all subjects (I can, you can, she can).
3. The negative is formed by adding not (You must not go).

modal	Use	Example
Present ability	Can	She can Swim
Past ability	could	I could play the piano when i was younger
future/comple x forms	BE able to	Thy will be able to join us

MODALS OF ABILITY

MODALS OF ABILITY

- Key Notes:
- Use "can" for present or general ability: I can speak three languages.
- Use "could" for abilities in the past: She could read when she was three.
- Use "be able to" for abilities in future or perfect tenses: He has been able to solve the problem.

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modal	Use	Example
strong obligation	must	you must wear a helmet
external obligation	have to	we have to finish the report
Necessity	need to	you need to drink more water
weaker obligation, advice	Should / ought to	You should visit a doctor

MODALS OF
OBLIGATION AND
NECESSITY

MODALS OF OBLIGATION AND NECESSITY

1. Must and have to express strong obligation.
 - You must wear a helmet. [strong rule]
 - I have to finish this project. [external obligation]
2. Don't have to expresses lack of necessity.
 - You don't have to wear a suit for the meeting.
3. Had to is used for past obligation.
 - Yesterday, I had to clean the house.

MODALS OF OBLIGATION AND NECESSITY

Key Differences:

1. Must vs. Have to:

- Must: Imposed by the speaker.
- You must study more (my advice).
- Have to: External obligation.
- You have to wear a uniform (a rule).

2. Should vs. Must:

- Should: Advice, softer than must.
- You should exercise more.
- Must: A stronger, urgent necessity.
- You must stop smoking.

MODALS OF PERMISSION

Present / future	past
Can/may you can go	Could he said i could go

Key Points:

- Can and may are used to ask or give permission.
 - Can I borrow your pen? [Informal]
 - May I enter the room? [Formal]
- Could is used for polite requests.
 - Could you help me with this task?

MODALS OF PROHIBITION

Present / future	past
Can't/mustn't you can't smoke here	Couldn't i couldn't go there

Key Points:

- Mustn't means something is forbidden: You mustn't cheat in the exam.
- Can't is used for prohibitions or impossibility: You can't park here.

MODALS OF
DEDUCTION AND
SPECULATION

PRESENT/FUTURE DEDUCTION:

Degree of certainty	modal verb	Example
100% sure	must	he must be tired after the trip
50% sure	May / might / could	She might be at home now
0% sure	Can't	This can't be true.

MODALS OF
DEDUCTION AND
SPECULATION

PAST DEDUCTION:

Degree of certainty	modal verb	Example
100% sure	Must have	She must have forgotten her keys.
50% sure	May/Might/Could have	They might have left already.
0% sure	Can't have	He can't have finished the work so quickly.

MODAL VERB
USES

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fuction	modal verb	Example
ability	can / could	She an driv. He could play the piano.
permission / request	Can / could / may	Can I leave early? You may sit here.
obligation / necessity	Must / have to / should	You must do this. We have to study
Prohibition	can't, mustn't	you can't park here. You musn't lie
Deduction / speculation	must / may / might/ could / caan't	she must be late. He can't be serious.



PRACTICE

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct modal verb.

1. You _____ [must/can't] touch this button –it's dangerous!
2. She _____ [might/must] be at home. The lights are on.
3. When I was a child, I _____ [could/can] run faster.

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PRACTICE

Exercise 2: Correct the errors.

1. He can to swim well.
2. You mustn't to use your phone during the test.
3. I may forgot my wallet at the restaurant.

Exercise 3: Sentence Transformations.

Rewrite the sentences using modal verbs:

1. It's possible that she left early. → She _____ have left early.
2. It's forbidden to park here. → You _____ park here.
3. I'm sure he didn't lie. → He _____ lied.