Identify the Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are helping verbs that express certain conditions. Some modal verbs are *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *should*, *will*, and *would*.

What does each modal verb show?

can

shows ability or permission

will

shows future action

must

shows necessity

might

shows possibility

should

shows advice or expectation

could

shows possibility, request, or past ability

may

shows possibility, giving permission, or a request for permission

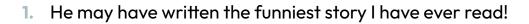
would

shows what would happen under a certain condition

Example: If I had a pony, I would ride it every day of the year.

The verb shows what would happen under a certain condition.

Directions: Circle the modal verb or verbs in the sentences below.



- 2. Many of the guests were not hungry, so there should be plenty of food left over.
- 3. After Lilly opened the window, she could feel how warm it was already.
- 4. I think Dad will fall asleep if he has to wait at the mall any longer.
- 5. Bill and Emily can ride their bikes up and down hills.
- 6. You may go to the park, but don't stay there too late.
- 7. Scientists discovered that elephants can hear with their feet.
- 8. When I saw the decorations, I knew it would be a fun party.
- 9. Nathaniel must leave the house now or he will miss his flight!
- 10. It might rain this afternoon, so you should bring your umbrella.

