

Identifying What the Modal Verb Expresses

What does the modal verb show? Select the best answer choice.

1. You ought to add some whipped cream to your dessert.

- advice
- ability

2. Would you like a glass of milk?

- possibility
- offer

3. Shall we dance?

- polite request
- obligation

4. It might rain today.

- possibility
- necessity

5. You should hang your towel up to dry.

- necessity
- advice

6. I must get your recipe for this pie!

- possibility
- necessity

7. Tommy will win the award for most hits this baseball season.

- advice
- probability

8. Could I have a cookie?

- permission
- advice

9. Mary said she would help us this afternoon.

- offer
- necessity

10. Grandma ought to bottle this gravy and sell it!

- advice
- necessity

11. Shall I ask for a cup of tea?

- polite question
- ability

12. Mrs. Jones, may I use your stapler?

- polite request
- necessity

13. George can play Over the Rainbow on the piano.

- necessity
- ability

14. Pamela might be a little late this morning.

- permission
- possibility

15. Ian's mom said he must come right home after school.

- command
- permission