

## USAGE OF MODAL VERBS IN CHINESE

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*Uzbekistan State World Languages University,  
Faculty of Oriental Philology,  
Teacher of the Department of Chinese Philology  
E- mail: [diyorakhonchina@mail.ru](mailto:diyorakhonchina@mail.ru)*

**Annotation.**

This article explores the usage of modal verbs in Chinese, highlighting their meanings, functions, and sentence structures. Unlike English, Chinese modal verbs precede the main verb without changing its form. Key modal verbs such as 能 (néng), 可以 (kěyǐ), 会 (huì), 要 (yào), 应该 (yīnggāi), 必须 (bìxū), and 敢 (gǎn) are discussed with examples to illustrate their use in expressing ability, permission, necessity, obligation, and willingness. Understanding these verbs is crucial for effective communication in Chinese.

**Keywords**

Chinese modal verbs, ability, permission, necessity, obligation, willingness, 能 (néng), 可以 (kěyǐ), 会 (huì), 要 (yào), 应该 (yīnggāi), 必须 (bìxū), 敢 (gǎn).

Modal verbs in Chinese (情态动词, qíngtài dòngcí) play an essential role in expressing possibility, necessity, ability, and willingness. Unlike in English, where modal verbs are auxiliary and precede the main verb, in Chinese, modal verbs come before the main verb without changing its form. Below is an overview of the most commonly used modal verbs in Chinese and their meanings.

**1. 能 (néng) - can, be able to**

This modal verb expresses ability or permission.

**Examples:**

- 我能游泳。(Wǒ néng yóuyǒng.) - I can swim.
- 你能来吗?(Nǐ néng lái ma?) - Can you come?

**2. 可以 (kěyǐ) - may, be allowed to**

Used to express permission or possibility.

**Examples:**

- 你可以用我的书。(Nǐ kěyǐ yòng wǒ de shū.) - You may use my book.

• 这里可以拍照吗？(Zhèlǐ kěyǐ pāizhào ma?) – Is it allowed to take pictures here?

### 3. 会 (huì) – can, know how to, will

Indicates learned ability or future actions.

#### Examples:

- 我会说汉语。(Wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ.) – I can speak Chinese.
- 明天会下雨。(Míngtiān huì xiàyǔ.) – It will rain tomorrow.

### 4. 要 (yào) – want, need, be going to

Expresses intention, necessity, or future actions.

#### Examples:

- 我要喝水。(Wǒ yào hē shuǐ.) – I want to drink water.
- 我们要去北京。(Wǒmen yào qù Běijīng.) – We are going to Beijing.

### 5. 应该 (yīnggāi) – should, ought to

Expresses obligation or suggestion.

#### Examples:

- 你应该多休息。(Nǐ yīnggāi duō xiūxi.) – You should rest more.
- 我应该做作业。(Wǒ yīnggāi zuò zuòyè.) – I should do my homework.

### 6. 必须 (bìxū) – must, have to

Indicates strong necessity.

#### Examples:

- 你必须准时。(Nǐ bìxū zhǔnshí.) – You must be on time.
- 我们必须努力工作。(Wǒmen bìxū nǜlì gōngzuò.) – We must work hard.

### 7. 敢 (gǎn) – dare, have the courage to

Used to express courage or willingness to take risks.

#### Examples:

- 你敢试试吗？(Nǐ gǎn shìshì ma?) – Do you dare to try?
- 他不敢说话。(Tā bù gǎn shuōhuà.) – He doesn't dare to speak.

## Conclusion

Chinese modal verbs are straightforward in structure but essential for communication. They are always placed before the main verb and do not require tense changes, making them easier to use compared to their English counterparts. Understanding their meanings and nuances will help learners express intentions, abilities, and necessities more effectively in Chinese.

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