

Kunnen, mogen, moeten, willen

Modal verbs

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The weather and what to wear

Dutch

Read & listen online ↗



Modal verbs

These modal verbs take an infinitive at the end without **te**. **Kunnen** expresses ability, **mogen** permission, **moeten** necessity and **willen** desire. The singular forms are **ik kan/mag/moet/wil**, **jij/u kunt/mag/moet/wilt** (also **kan** and **wil**), **hij/zij kan/mag/moet/wil**. All plural persons use **kunnen/mogen/moeten/willen**.

In a question move the modal first: **kunt u koken?**, **mag ik gaan?**, **wil je zingen?** With **jij/je** after the verb omit **-t**. Add **niet** before the infinitive: **ik kan niet dansen**.

Form	Example	Meaning
kan	Ik kan koken.	I can cook.
kunt · kan	U kunt kan zingen.	You can sing.
mag	Hij mag spelen.	He is allowed to play.
mogen	Wij mogen dansen.	We are allowed to dance.
moet	Zij moet slapen.	She has to sleep.
moeten	Jullie moeten helpen.	You all have to help.
wil	Hij wil zingen.	He wants to sing.
willen	Zij willen spelen.	They want to play.

Ik kan koken.

I can cook.

U kunt zingen.

You can sing.

Hij mag spelen.

He is allowed to play.

Wij mogen dansen.

We are allowed to dance.

Zij moet slapen.

She has to sleep.

Jullie moeten helpen.

You all have to help.

Hij wil zingen.

He wants to sing.

Zij willen spelen.

They want to play.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Ik kan koken.

Meaning: I can cook.

2 U kunt zingen.

Meaning: You can sing.

3 Hij mag spelen.

Meaning: He is allowed to play.

4 Wij mogen dansen.

Meaning: We are allowed to dance.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Ik _____ koken.

- ☐ A kunnen
- ☐ B kunt
- ☐ C kan

Meaning: I can cook.

2 U _____ zingen.

- ☐ A kunnen
- ☐ B konden
- ☐ C kunt

Meaning: You can sing.

3 Hij _____ spelen.

- ☐ A mogen
- ☐ B kan
- ☐ C mag

Meaning: He is allowed to play.

4 Wij _____ dansen.

- ☐ A mogen
- ☐ B kan
- ☐ C mag

Meaning: We are allowed to dance.

5 Zij _____ slapen.

- ☐ A moeten
- ☐ B moet
- ☐ C mogen

Meaning: She has to sleep.

6 Jullie _____ helpen.

- ☐ A mogen
- ☐ B moet
- ☐ C moeten

Meaning: You all have to help.

7 Hij _____ zingen.

- ☐ A wilt
- ☐ B willen
- ☐ C wil

Meaning: He wants to sing.

8 Zij _____ spelen.

- ☐ A wilt
- ☐ B willen
- ☐ C wil

Meaning: They want to play.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

mag mogen

Hij _____ spelen.

Meaning: He is allowed to play.

mogen mag

Wij _____ dansen.

Meaning: We are allowed to dance.

moet moeten

Zij _____ slapen.

Meaning: She has to sleep.

moeten moet

Jullie _____ helpen.

Meaning: You all have to help.

wil willen

Hij _____ zingen.

Meaning: He wants to sing.

willen wil

Zij _____ spelen.

Meaning: They want to play.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

Ik

kan

koken.

Meaning: I can cook.

2 zingen. kunt U

Meaning: You can sing.

3 Hij spelen. mag

Meaning: He is allowed to play.

4 Wij dansen. mogen

Meaning: We are allowed to dance.

5 moet Zij slapen.

Meaning: She has to sleep.

6

helpen.

Jullie

moeten

Meaning: You all have to help.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I can cook. You say:

- ☐ A Ik kan koken.
- ☐ B Ik kunnen koken.

2 You can sing. You say:

- ☐ A U kunt zingen.
- ☐ B U kunnen zingen.

3 He is allowed to play. You say:

- ☐ A Hij mogen spelen.
- ☐ B Hij mag spelen.

4 We are allowed to dance. You say:

- (A) Wij mag dansen.
- (B) Wij mogen dansen.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Ik kan koken. | (A) I can cook. |
| (2) Zij willen spelen. | (B) She has to sleep. |
| (3) U kunt zingen. | (C) You all have to help. |
| (4) Zij moet slapen. | (D) They want to play. |
| (5) Hij mag spelen. | (E) We are allowed to dance. |
| (6) Jullie moeten helpen. | (F) He wants to sing. |
| (7) Hij wil zingen. | (G) He is allowed to play. |
| (8) Wij mogen dansen. | (H) You can sing. |