

# *ENGLISH MODAL VERBS HAVING NOT ALWAYS MODAL VERBS EQUIVALENTS IN UKRAINIAN*

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There are four modal verbs in English, which practically lack direct lexical equivalents in Ukrainian: *shall*, *will*, *would* and partly *should*.

**A. SHALL** – depending on the intention of the speaker, the modal verb shall may express in combination with the notional infinitive the following main meanings:

1) *will* or *intention*, which can be conveyed in Ukrainian either with the help of the verb **хотіти** or through the logical stress on the verb that implicitly expresses this meaning plus the corresponding intonation (prosodic means) of the sentence:

*Shall I tell you how I felt as a mate of my high school students?* – **Розповісти** вам, як я дорослий, почувався учнем в одному з коледжів?

2) *promise* or *promised assurance, consent*:

*Shall we say four pounds a week?* – **Погодишся** (працювати) за чотири фунти на тиждень?

3) *warning, threat* or *resolute demand* which is usually conveyed in Ukrainian through the imperative verb forms:

*I shall want your account of how this happened.* – **Вимагаю** звіту про те, як ви таке допустили.

4) *compulsion, obligation, order* or *demand*, which is often conveyed through the imperative mood forms of the Ukrainian verb:

*You shall not stay another hour in my house. Get out!* – **Щоб** я за годину тебе тут **не бачив**. Геть звідси!

5) the modal verb shall, expressing *compulsion* or *obligation* according to law or a prearranged agreement, is mostly used in texts of different regulations, proclamations, charters, treaties, contracts, etc. the verb shall forms with the infinitive a sense unit, which is conveyed in Ukrainian through the verb-predicate forming a logical centre in the sentence:

*The General Assembly shall consist of all the Members of the United Nations.* – Збори всіх членів Організації Об'єднаних Націй **створюють** Генеральну Асамблею.

**B. WILL** as a modal verb together with infinitive may express different meanings, the main of which are volition, insistence, determination, intention.

In a number of cases the modal meaning of will may coincide with those expressed by its past form would. As a result, their lexical equivalents in Ukrainian may be close or even identical as well.

The modal verb will may be endowed in different contextual environment with various meanings, the main of them being the following:

1) *volition, demand or assurance* which is expressed in Ukrainian through the corresponding verb, stative or logical/emphatic stress:

“*I will be another kind of president*”, said Constantinescu. – “*Я буду/обіцяю бути зовсім іншим президентом*”, – заявив Константинеску.

2) *will as well as assurance or promise*:

Trench: “*I will save you the trouble.*” – Тренч: “*Я вже допоможу вам вибратися з цієї халепи.*”

3) *determination, perseverance or promising threat* which is often rendered through lexically explicit Ukrainian verbs, expressing also the future tense at the same time:

*I will prosecute you myself.* – *Я сам вас судитиму.*

4) *willingness, consent* (in conditional clauses after the following conjunction *if*):

*If you will tell me all about it in a chatty way, I can communicate it to Lady Roxdale.* – *Якщо ти захочеш мені розповісти про це щиро, я перекажу тоді все леді Роксдейл.*

5) *polite request* which may be expressed as follows:

*I want you to do a most terrible favour. Will you? Will you please?* – *Я хочу, щоб ви мені зробили страшенно велику послугу. Зробіть? Благаю, зробіть.*

6) *supposition* which is usually expressed in Ukrainian with the help of modal words or by means of the subjunctive mood of the predicate verb:

*This will be the place where they reposed.* – *Це напевне/мабуть і є те місце, де вони перепочивали.*

7) *habitual volitional actions* which are conveyed as follows:

*After this accidents he will lock himself and not show off.* – *Після того нещастя він став замикатись в собі і не показуватись.*

*In the afternoon he would go out alone and walk for hours.* – *Після полудня він, бувало, йшов із дому і годинами не вертався з прогулянки.*

8) *resistance to an action* referring to the present or to the future, which is observed only in English. Consequently, it has no corresponding modal expression in Ukrainian. Cf.:

*Help him, please, the door will not unlock.* – *Допоможіть, будь-ласка, йому. Двері ніяк не відмикаються.*

9) *condition* which is equivalently expressed in Ukrainian through the subjunctive or conditional mood forms in subordinate clauses of real and unreal condition:

*If he wouldn't mind, I would love to come. – Якби він не був проти (не заперечував), то я б охоче прийшов.*

10) *determination* or *persistence*, which is expressed with the help of set constructions like **I (he, we) won't/would not**. This modal meaning is rendered into Ukrainian by means of the verb **дозволяти/не дозволяти, допускати/не допускати** as well:

*"Ten or eleven", the Sheriff said, "I won't stand for it." – "Десять чи одинадцять років, - сказав шериф, - я все одно не дозволю цього."*

11) *preference, choice* and other meanings as in the set expressions **I'd rather/I would/I'd sooner**, which are usually rendered into Ukrainian with or without the help of the subjunctive mood forms plus such adverbs of manner as **краще, радніше/ліпше**:

*He will/would never set the Thames on fire. – Він навряд чи порох вигадас./Він зірок із неба не знімас.*

*He will die as he lived. – Горбатого (тільки) могила виправить.*

*He who would catch fish must not mind getting wet. – Хочеш рибки – ліз у воду./Лежатимеш на печі – не їстимеш калачі.*

12) to express *favour, benevolence*:

*He wants to know... if you'll invite Daisy to your house some afternoon... – Він хоче знати... чи ви не зволите запросити колись на обід до себе Дейзі...*

**C. WILL** and **WOULD** are used in many set/idiomatic expressions having both subjunctive and non-subjunctive meaning:

*He would give a penny for the young fellow's thought. – Він багато дав би, щоб дізнатися, що цей молодик задумав.*

*You'd make a saint swear. – Ти навіть святого виведеш/вивів би з рівноваги.*

**D. SHOULD** as a modal verb is very often used both in reference to present and to future. It conveys a variety of meanings some of which may be close to the meanings of the modal verbs *ought to, have to, to be to, must*.

The most common direct meaning of the modal (non-subjunctive or future-in-the-past form) verb *should* in Ukrainian corresponds to the statives **слід, треба**, or to the modal word and phrase **потрібно/є потреба**. These equivalents are also mostly employed in order to express the following meaning of the modal verb *should*:

1) *obligation/moral obligation, necessity*:

*What do you think he should do? – І що, по-твоєму, йому слід/треба робити?*

2) *regret, grief, sorrow*:

*I shouldn't have said that. – Мені не слід/не треба було цього казати.*

3) *advice/recommendation, admonition*:

*You shouldn't have consulted me, Esme. – Тобі не треба/не слід було радитися зі мною, Есме.*

4) *supposition/suggestion*, which can be expressed in Ukrainian with the help of modal words or particles:

*Perhaps I should introduce my friend Cosane to you. – Може б мені представити вам мого друга Кокейна?/Мабуть, представлю вам мого друга Кокейна.*

5) *doubt, indignation* and some other emotions expressed through the modal verb *should* may also be rendered with the help of some Ukrainian particles and the implicit meaning of the sentence:

*Why should I wait? – Чому б це мені чекати?*

6) *surprise, indignation* or *pleasure* (with the indefinite or perfect infinitive following the modal verb *should*). These meanings of the modal verb *should* are mostly rendered in Ukrainian through the logical emphatic stress, intonation, particles or through some modal verbs:

*God forbid that I should ever say a good word for you! – Боронь Боже мені сказати/щоб я коли-небудь сказав хоч одне добре слово за тебе!*

7) the modal verb *should* may also express *reproval* or *protest, disappointment*, etc., which may be expressed in Ukrainian with the help of the modal words or statives **треба, слід, потрібно** or with the help of some modal particles. Cf.:

*I don't know why sometimes I should be sneered at. – Не збагну, чому це іноді з мене треба покепкувати/поглузувати.*

## ?? Suggested Topics for Discussion

Explain the peculiar nature of the modal verbs

shall

will

would

in English and ways and means of expressing their functions and lexical meanings in Ukrainian.

## EXERCISES

**Ex.1. Identify the meanings of the modal verb shall and translate the following sentences containing it into Ukrainian:**

1. “Shall we all go in my car?” suggested Gatsby. 2. “Well, shall I help myself?” Tom demanded. 3. They shall be called the Malazy – the lazy people.

4. By their fruits ye shall know them. 5. If the blind leads the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. 6. "Father", she cried, "father, are you ill? Shall I ring?" 7. Since you have acted so handsomely, you shall have no cause to complain of me: you shall entertain as much as you please. 8. Shall I tell you about it? 9. I'll take care that you shall be well off when I'm gone. 10. Shall we go away? 11. "You certainly shall not go till you have told me all," I said. 12. Shall we take anything to drink? 13. Shall I give you some coffee? 14. I will sing the Baby a song that shall keep him asleep for an hour. 15. I will throw these five things at you, wherever I see you, and so shall all proper Men do after me. 16. Hence, forward I will go out seven times a day and the waters shall never be still. 17. It won't take you long, and then you shall have your tea.

***Ex. 2. Translate the following articles from the Ukrainian Constitution into English. Be careful to express the modality of each article.***

#### РОЗДІЛ ІІ КОНСТИТУЦІЇ УКРАЇНИ

#### ПРАВА, СВОБОДИ ТА ОБОВ'ЯЗКИ ЛЮДИНИ І ГРОМАДЯНИНА

Стаття 21: Усі люди є вільні і рівні у своїй гідності та правах. Права і свободи людини є невідчужуваними та непорушними.

Стаття 22: Права і свободи людини і громадянина, закріплені цією Конституцією, не є вичерпними.

Конституційні права і свободи гарантуються і не можуть бути скасовані.

При прийнятті нових законів або внесенні змін до чинних законів не допускається звуження змісту та обсягу існуючих прав та свобод.

Стаття 23: Кожна людина має право на вільний розвиток своєї особистості, якщо при цьому не порушуються права і свободи інших людей, та має обов'язки перед суспільством, в якому забезпечується вільний і всебічний розвиток її особистості.

Стаття 24: Громадяни мають рівні конституційні права і свободи та є рівними перед законом.

Не може бути привілеїв чи обмежень за ознаками раси, кольору шкіри, політичних, релігійних та інших переконань, статі, етнічного та соціального походження, майнового стану, місця проживання, за мовними чи іншими ознаками.

Рівність прав жінки і чоловіка забезпечується: наданням жінкам рівних з чоловіками можливостей у громадсько-політичній і культурній діяльності, у здобутті освіти і професійній підготовці, у праці та винагороді за неї; спеціальними заходами щодо охорони праці і здоров'я жінок, встановлення пенсійних пільг; створення умов, які

дають жінкам можливість поєднувати працю з материнством; правовим захистом, матеріальною і моральною підтримкою материнства і дитинства, включаючи надання оплачуваних відпусток та інших пільг вагітним жінкам і матерям.

Стаття 25: Громадянин України не може бути позбавлений громадянства і права змінити громадянство.

Громадянин України не може бути вигнаний за межі України або виданий іншій державі.

Україна гарантує піклування та захист своїм громадянам, які перебувають за її межами.

***Ex. 3. Identify the meanings expressed by the modal verb will in the sentences below and translate them into Ukrainian.***

1. We will now seriously devote ourselves to a little high tension. 2. I've never seen a Jaguar... An' I'spose I never will. 3. I will go away and get help for him from his tribe. 4. I will go up and look and say: "I will guard your cave." 5. "I will do so", said the Woman – "but I will not thank you for it". 6. "I will ever be grateful to you". – "Now we will make our bargain". 7. None are so blind as those who will not see. 8. As you sow, so will you reap. 9. "Say, will you do me a favour?" – "Will I?" 10. I will prove that he lied. 11. I will now read you a little tale that I wrote last night. 12. "I will never marry without my father's warrant", she added. 13. "Will you be going to the dance tonight?" he asked. 14. "Get this prescription made up and come and see me". – "Thanks, Doc, I will". 15. But I think I will say no, if you don't mind. 16. I am an Englishman, and I will suffer no priest to interfere in my business. 17. They're crazy. The Sheriff won't let them. 18. I am perfectly willing to wait. 19. I will go out of the room if you do. 20. Then I will not marry him. I will not go abroad. 21. Tomorrow I will be a man, For Tomorrow I shall fight, And Tomorrow I will die. 22. "I will, Leister, I will," she exclaimed, "I will tell you everything when I come back." 23. We will let him go to school next year if we can.

***Ex. 4. Read carefully the Release Form below. Identify the meaning of the modal verb will in it and translate the document into Ukrainian.***

TERMS OF AGREEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING  
THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

I agree that during this trip I will not smoke cigarettes nor use alcohol or drugs. I will not visit relatives and friends living in the United States, nor arrange or participate in private or public business or activities unrelated to

the program of the International Leadership Conference. I will not engage in any promiscuous relationships or dating relationships during my entire stay in the United States. I will follow the program as scheduled and I will return to Ukraine on the scheduled date of departure. I will take full personal and legal responsibility for all my actions while in the United States.

***Ex. 5. Identify the meaning of the verb would in the sentences below and then translate the sentences into Ukrainian.***

1. "Would you rather put it off for a few days?" I asked. 2. Well, this would interest you. It wouldn't take much of your time. 3. You wouldn't have to do any business with the Nolfshheim. 4. How would you like to spank somebody? 5. I wouldn't drink that water because I'd know you said it was bad. 6. Then great Mr. Lloyds would come with a wire and drag him home. 7. I would willingly offer up my political life on the altar of my dear state's wheel and I would be glad and grateful to do it. 8. "Would you ever imagine what is a human volcano?" – "I would not". 9. You'd like some tea, would you? 10. Without hope the heart would break. 11. I don't know about things like that. I wouldn't know what to do. 12. I would remember it only as a day that was rather funny. 13. Reporters came, television and all, but I wouldn't see them. 14. "William... William..." he would have to look back to find the surname. 15. I wouldn't have her now, not if she asked me on her bended knee. 16. I don't talk about such things: whatever would they think of us. 17. She is not like my mother; the same treatment wouldn't do for both cases. 18. So that was why he would not touch the money. 19. The honour would be entirely Gatsby's... if you would attend his 'little party' that night. 20. When would you like them to come over?

***Ex. 6. Identify the meaning of the verb should in the sentences below and then translate the sentences into Ukrainian.***

1. You shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth. 2. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. 3. Why should she not (see her)? 4. He knew what he should do. 5. He should get down soon on to the white road. 6. I do not know what we should do without the pulpit. 7. I should very much like to see it done. 8. Why should I not go too? 9. How would you like to spank somebody – but I should not like it at all. 10. I should like it very much indeed. 11. You should be more careful. 12. You should go to a healthy spot. 13. "Well, for God's sake, get him attended to, Margo." – "You think I should?" 14. Why shouldn't you pass (the examination) then? 15. People should know their place and stick to it. 16. You should be saying these things to him. 17. "Are you sorry you

didn't do it?" – "I should have been a perfect fool if I had." 18. That's what you should have done. 19. Why shouldn't you marry me? 20. Why should I have done it? 21. There shouldn't be better opportunities for women. 22. You should go back and finish grammar school. 23. I don't see why we shouldn't get on very well together. 24. I shouldn't be sorry if you thought ill of me. 25. Well, we'd better telephone for an axe. 26. You'd better try and sit quiet till morning. 27. I think we'd better draw a picture of them. 28. "You'd better get off there," Charlie said. 29. May be I'd better sell it somewhere else.

***Ex. 7. Find 15 proverbs/sayings with modal verbs shall, will, would, and should. Translate them into Ukrainian.***