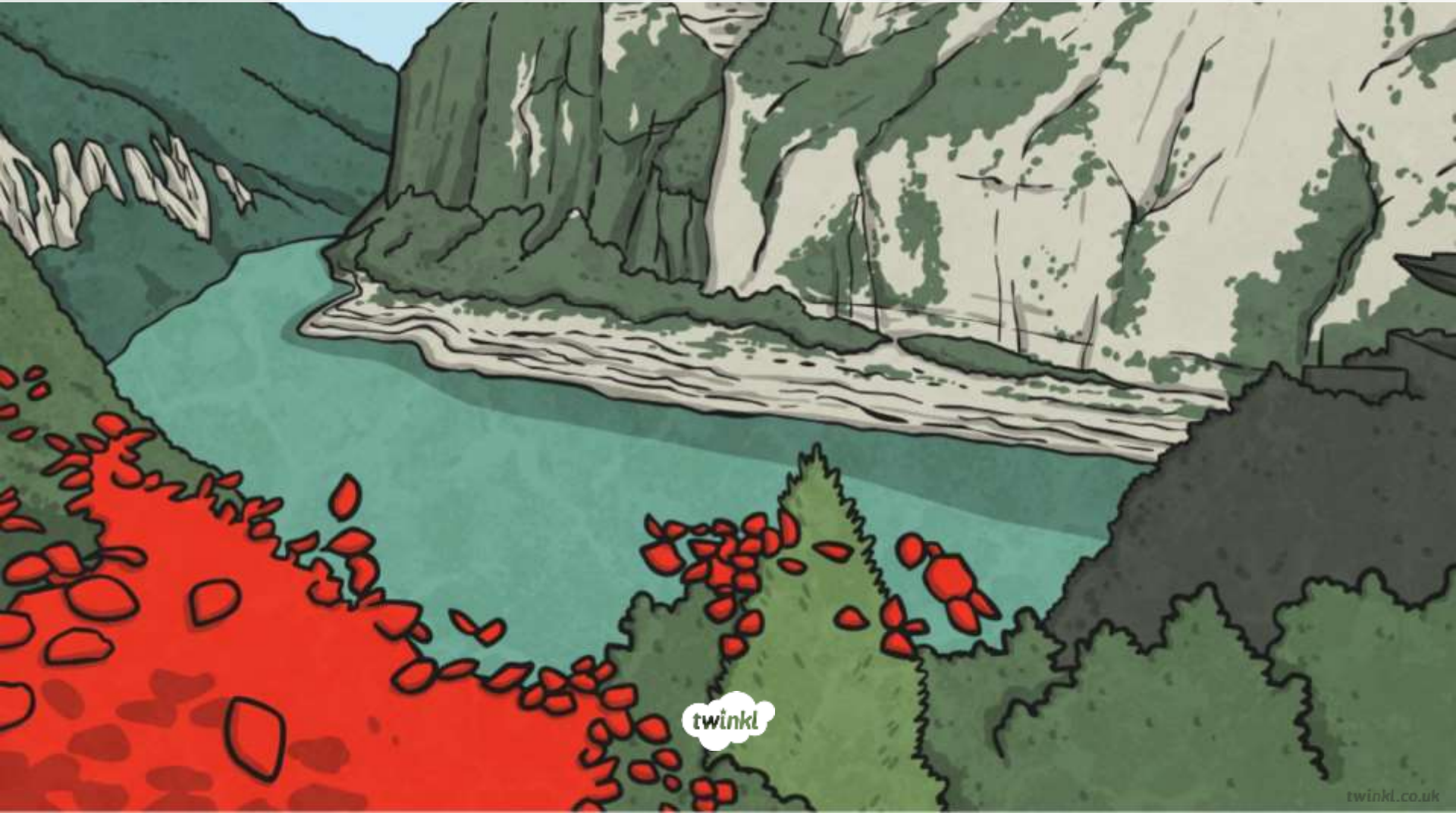


Modal Verbs



Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs which cannot usually work alone.
They are used with a main verb.

These are modal verbs:

might

will

should

may

would

can

could

must

shall

ought to

Modal verbs make questions by inversion.

She can go out.

Can she go out?



We could drive there.

Could we drive there?



Children should eat fruit.

Should children eat fruit?



Modal verbs can be used to show how possible something is, or how likely it is to happen/have happened.

For example:

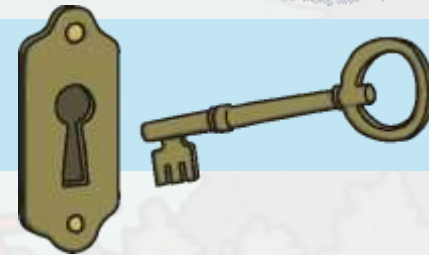
He's very late. He could have missed the train.



It's snowing so it must be very cold outside.



They will lock the windows when they go out.



Can you spot the Modal verbs used to show possibility in these sentences?

Mum **might** take us swimming after school.



You **could** eat a banana instead of those sweets.



“Hurry up! We **will** be late!” said Dad

Hurry up!

We **can** go the other way – it’s quicker.



You **ought** to go to bed earlier.



Which Modal verbs are missing from these sentences?

You **must** be hot in that thick coat.



If it's dry, **shall** we play outside?



He's so fast, he **should** win the race.



I'm fed up with my long hair. I **might** have it cut.



Did you choose these modal verbs?
Which others could you have used?

Modal verbs can also be used to show:

advice or obligation

Pupils must wear a uniform.

You should not smoke.



habits

I will often have cereal for my breakfast.

We shall always enjoy a walk in the park.



permission

May I leave a few minutes early?

Could we go to the post box on the way?

Please can we have an ice cream?



ability

I can drive a tractor.

My grandfather could draw very well.





twinkl