



Uncertainty with Modal Verbs

Many words and phrases act like markers in a text to indicate to readers that the author is less than certain about what is being said. Collectively, these words and phrases that indicate uncertainty are called **uncertainty qualifiers**. One category of uncertainty qualifiers are called **modal verbs**. A modal verb is used to modify the mood of a verb. Some common modal verbs are can, may, might, will, would, could, and should.

DIRECTIONS: Study the text provided. Answer the questions.

Does the author use modal verbs to indicate uncertainty in the text?

Find an instance in which a modal verb indicates uncertainty. Write the sentence or sentences below.

What is the author uncertain about?

How would you expect this sentence to read if it did not include uncertainty?
