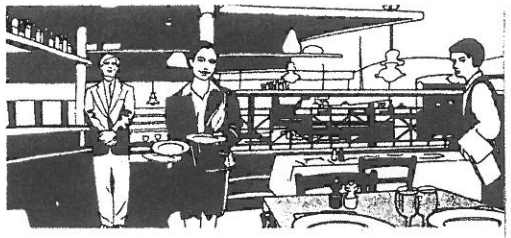
MODAL VERBS I.

Listening:



Mr Kent, Maria and Alex work together. Where do you think they work? What are their jobs?

You are going to hear three conversations. In which conversation:

1 does Alex make suggestions or offer to do things? .....
2 does Maria ask Alex to do things? .....
3 does Alex ask for permission to do things? .....

Listen again and complete these sentences.

1 .....Can..... I sit here for a minute?
2 ..... I get a drink of water?
3 ..... I use the phone?
4 ..... you do those tables over there?
5 ..... you help me put out today's menus?
6 And ..... you check the salt and pepper?
7 Then ..... you sweep the floor?
8 But ..... we move some tables outside?
9 And we ..... serve more interesting food perhaps.
10 I ..... make one of my special recipes if you like.

Look at the recording script on page 187 and check your answers.
Now put the expressions in the box under the correct heading.

~~Can I~~ ... Would you ... We could ... Will you ... Could I ...
Shall we ... I can ... Can you ... Could you ... May I ...

Asking for permission	Asking someone to do something	Making offers or suggestions
.....Can I.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

Exercises:

1. Claire and Tim are planning a party. Make sentences using the modal verb in brackets.

1 we / tidy the flat before the party. (*must*) We must tidy the flat before the party.
2 Peter / help us. (*ought*) .....
3 we / decorate the flat. (*will*) .....
4 we / (*not*) invite too many people. (*should*) .....
5 you / bring your CDs? (*can*) .....
6 your mother / lend us some plates? (*could*) .....
7 we (*not*) / make too much noise. (*must*) .....
8 the neighbours / complain. (*might*) .....

2. Jamie has come to visit Sam. Complete this conversation with expressions from the box.

shall I get ~~I could do~~ Shall I show What about having I can cook I could give

Jamie: I'm sorry you've broken your wrist, Sam. (1) ~~I could do~~ some shopping for you.
Sam: It's OK. I've got lots of food. I just can't cook at the moment.
Jamie: Oh. Well, (2) ..... something for you.
Sam: That would be good. (3) ..... a pizza and some salad?
Jamie: Fine. And (4) ..... you a drink? What would you like?
Sam: Can you open that orange juice in the fridge? I can't do it with one hand.
Jamie: OK. Look, I've brought some work from college. (5) ..... you?
Sam: Actually, I'm coming into college this afternoon.
Jamie: I'm going too. (6) ..... you a lift. I've got my motorbike outside.

3. Underline the correct words.

1 I know you want to learn to sail. I *could/may* teach you.
2 Why don't we *eat/eating* in the new Chinese restaurant?
3 *Could/Would* I speak to Silvana please?
4 *Can/May* you drive me to school today?
5 *Shall/Will* I carry that for you? It looks very heavy.
6 *Shall/Will* you give me Maria's phone number please?
7 I enjoyed playing tennis with you. *Shall/Would* we play again next week?
8 How about *inviting/invite* my sister too?
9 '*Would/May* you help me to write this letter?' 'I'm sorry. I'm busy.'
10 Let's *meet/meeting* in the café at 7.