

## Chapter 7 Lending a Helping hand: The auxiliary verb

### Additional paper or project ideas

1. **Ain't.** Find instances of ain't in popular usage, such as movies, TV shows, songs and so on. Who uses this form? What would change if it was replaced with "am not" or "isn't it" or another negation form?
2. Review the information about *shall* in legal contexts from this website: <https://www.plainlanguage.gov/guidelines/conversational/shall-and-must/>. Then, consult the second edition of Garner's *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* (1995), pages 939-942 and summarize what he says about *shall* and *must*. What is your take on this aspect of legalese?
3. Huang (2011) on the Yale Grammatical Diversity Project website, writes: Multiple modals have been used on both scripted and late-night television. The line "Tyrone might could tell you where he's at" was included in season 1, episode 4 of 'True Detective,' and season 4, episode 2 of 'Breaking Bad' included the line "Either way you're gonna wanna practice your draw. A lot. 'Cause if you're all fingers, well it might could be him keeping a piece instead of you, catch my drift?" On a [2012 episode of the Daily Show](#), then-Senator for South Carolina Jim DeMint said, "Let's at least talk about what might could be made better about the private sector, about local communities, about states and keep in Washington what we have to do."

This phenomenon also makes appearances in other media. "I might could" shows up in a [painting](#) by [Michel Balasis \(2007\)](#). "I thought you might could get coffee!" is uttered in an [Arlo & Janis comic \(January 9, 2006\)](#):

Based on what you learned about double modals, compare each of the examples included in the paragraph above with a corresponding version of a single modal (so, for instance, compare "I thought you might could get coffee" with "I thought you could get coffee"). How would you describe the difference in meaning? Have you come across other examples of double modals in the media, including social media? What do they seem to be used for?

4. Multiple negation in languages other than English. Review the videos and websites below about negation in French and Spanish. If you know other languages yourself, describe the pattern of negation for that language as well. How do the patterns compare to negation in sE and other English dialects?
  - <https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/double-negatives/>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ZnnWck0Zk>
  - <https://mangolanguages.com/resources/learn/grammar/spanish/how-to-make-double-negation-in-spanish>
  - <https://www.thoughtco.com/double-negatives-spanish-3079432>