

CORSO DI LAUREA IN COMUNICAZIONE INTERLINGUISTICA APPLICATA ALLE PROFESSIONI GIURIDICHE

Modulo di Lingua Inglese 1 2019-20

Lesson 4 – 30 March 2020

- Modality
- Lambarth Chapter 4: Legislation

Modal Verbs

A closed class:

Can

Could

May

Might

Shall

Should

Must

Need (to)

Dare (to)

Ought (to)

Will

Would

Modal Verbs

Present the NICE syntactic features of auxiliaries:

- Negation: You cannot do that.
- Inversion: May I ask a question.
- Code: Yes, you may. (Ellipsis)
- Emphasis: No, you can't

Modal Verbs

Incomplete verb forms:

- No infinitive
- No 3rd person conjugations
- Limited past forms
- No past or present participles

Modal Verbs

Epistemic (propositional) modality

Expresses a level of probability that a proposition or event is true and/or will occur:

Will – Shall – Must – Should - Ought to –
Can – Could – May – Might

A present or future (never a past) meaning

Modal Verbs

Epistemic (propositional) modality

A present or future (never a past) meaning when used with the simple infinitive:

I might go – I should go

A conjectural or contra-factual sense when used with the perfect infinitive:

He may have done it.

It can't have happened.

Modal Verbs

Deontic modality

Relates to ability, permission, volition and obligation:

Can – May – Will – Must – Shall - Should

Generally, a present and/or future sense

Modal Verbs

Deontic modality

Past references often with alternative forms:

- To be possible/permitted/allowed/able
- To be willing
- To be supposed to

Modal Verbs

Deontic modality

A true past form only with Can and Would:

- When I was a child I could speak French (Ability)
- I would (used to) study all day long (Volition)

Can

Epistemic Modality

- I can see you tomorrow. (Future – High Probability)
- You can eat very well in this restaurant. (Generic Possibility)
- It can't be him. (Contra-factual)

Deontic Modality

- Can I ask a question? (Permission)
- I can speak English. (Ability)
- You cannot smoke in this room (Prohibition)

Could

Epistemic Modality

- I could see you tomorrow. (Future – Mid Probability)
- You could eat very well in this restaurant. (Past Generic Possibility)
- It couldn't be him. (Contra-factual)

Deontic Modality

- Could I ask a question? (Permission)
- I could speak English. (Past Ability)
- You could not smoke in that room (Past Prohibition)

- If I could speak French, I could work in Paris. (Subjunctive - Conditional)

May

Epistemic Modality

- I may see you tomorrow. (Future – Lower Probability)
- You may eat very well in this restaurant. (Generic Possibility – Lower Probability)

Deontic Modality

- May I ask a question? (Permission)

Might

Epistemic Modality

- I might see you tomorrow. (Future – Lower Probability)
- You might eat very well in this restaurant. (Generic Possibility – Lower Probability)

Deontic Modality

- Might I ask a question? (Permission)

Must

Epistemic Modality

- I must go tomorrow. (Future – High Probability)
- He must be here by now (Deduction)

Deontic Modality

- You must finish your work. (Obligation)
- You must not go out today (Negative obligation)

Must/Have to

Epistemic Modality

- I must see you tomorrow. (Future – High Probability) external
- I have to go tomorrow (Future - High Probability) internal

Deontic Modality

- I must finish my work. (Obligation) internal
- You have to finish your work. (Obligation) external

- You must not go out today (Obligation)
- You do not have to go out today (No necessity)

Shall

Epistemic Modality

- I shall see you tomorrow. (Future – High Probability)

Deontic Modality

- You shall be here at 6.00 o'clock. (Obligation)
- Shall I help you? (Offer)
- Shall we have lunch? (Invitation)

Should

Epistemic Modality

- I should see you tomorrow. (Future – High Probability)
- You should eat very well in this restaurant, if the new chef is there.
- I should speak English, if I have the chance. (Probability)

Deontic Modality

- You should register by the end of the week. (Moral obligation)
- I should be able to finish by tomorrow. (Ability)
- If you can, you should speak English. (Conditional)

Ought to

Epistemic Modality

- I ought to see you tomorrow. (Future – High Probability)
- You ought to eat very well in this restaurant, if the new chef is there.
- I ought speak English, but I do not. (Probability)

Deontic Modality

- You ought to register by the end of the week. (Moral obligation)
- I ought to be able to finish by tomorrow. (Ability)
- If you can, you ought to speak English. (Conditional)

Need (to)

Deontic Modality

- *You need register by the end of the week.*
- You need to register by the end of the week. (Necessity/obligation) Non-modal
- Need I ask a question? (Necessity/obligation)
- Do I need to ask a question? (Necessity/obligation) Non-modal
- I needn't speak English. (No necessity/obligation)
- I don't need to speak English. (No necessity/obligation) Non-modal

Dare (to)

Deontic Modality

I dare speak English.

I dare to speak English. (Volition) Non-modal

Dare I ask a question? (Volition)

Do I dare to ask a question? (Volition) Non-modal

I daren't speak English. (Volition)

I don't dare to speak English. (Volition) Non-modal

I dare say you speak English. (Fixed, idiomatic expression)

I imagine/assume/am sure you speak English. (said with slightly disrespectful tone)

Doubtless you speak English. (said with slightly disrespectful tone)

Lambarth: Chapter 4 – Legislation

Legislation:

- Statute/Act of Parliament
 - House of Commons
 - House of Lords
 - Royal Assent
- Government legislates to implement policy
 - e.g. Brexit
 - Depends on parliamentary majority
- Government legislates in response to emergencies or to update existing laws
 - e.g. Terrorist attacks
 - Pub opening times
- Private Members' bills

Lambarth: Chapter 4 – Legislation

Legislation:

- Green Paper
 - Outline and consultation
- White Paper
 - Detail on proposed law
- Bill
 - Proposed law debated in Parliament, subject to amendment
- Act
 - The final agreed law receiving Royal Assent

Lambarth: Chapter 4 – Legislation

Legislation:

- Primary Legislation (Parent/Enabling Act)
 - The outline/scope of the principles of the agreed law
- Secondary /Delegated Legislation
 - The actuation of the primary legislation usually by a Minister

Lambarth: Chapter 4 – Legislation

Legislation:

Law divided into:

1. Sections (1, 2, 3 ...)
 - a) Sub-sections (a. b, c ...)
 - i. Sub-sub-sections (i, ii, iii ...)

Example:

European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (Primary Legislation)

Next Lesson

Monday 7 April 2020 (15.00-16.30)

Preparation:

- Read Lambarth Chapter 5: The Court System